THE UNITED NEGRO COLLEGE FUND

The United Negro College Fund represents a consortium of 40 independent and fully accredited liberal arts institutions of higher learning. The Fund was founded in 1944 by Dr. Frederick Patterson and has raised more than $129 million towards the support of its member institutions.

Last year, the Fund raised more than $9.2 million nationally which was distributed to the member colleges based on the enrollment and operating budget. The money was then used to help defray costs incurred from scholarship aid, faculty salaries, and operating equipment.

The Member Colleges

The majority of the 40 colleges belonging to UNCF are located throughout the South, having been founded to serve the educational needs of those Black Americans who were not allowed to attend white colleges. Historically, these colleges have been the center of economic, social and political development of black communities. They offer graduate and undergraduate courses of study and they graduate scientists, engineers, journalists, doctors, lawyers, and professionals in nearly every other major field.

Traditionally under-supported, meagerly endowed, and poorly equipped, these colleges, however, face a daily struggle for survival. As is well known, colleges everywhere are faced with a crisis, but the UNCF colleges head the list. A recent survey showed that of the Fund's 40 colleges, 35 showed a deficit in their 1971 budget.

The Carnegie Commission's recently published report on The Problems of Colleges Founded for Negroes states the case well:

"Because of their history of isolation and because their students come from families with low income and are in some cases under-prepared for college instruction, black colleges have heavier costs than white colleges, not only for student aid, but also for compensatory education."

Despite these almost insurmountable economic and social burdens, UNCF colleges have accomplished wonders. They have produced more than 80 percent of our black doctors, 75 percent of our black Ph.D's, 90 percent of our black educators, 75 percent of the young..."
black men and women who pursue advance degrees, and even higher percentages among college presidents, lawyers, corporate officers, scholars, and government officials. And with our continued support more will come.

The Students

More than 44,000 students, including over 1,500 from the Washington Area, attended UNCF colleges in 1971. And undergraduate and graduate degrees were awarded to over 6,544 of these young men and women.

Most UNCF students cannot afford to pay for an education. The average yearly family income is below $4,000. Consequently, over 70 percent received some type of financial aid in 1971.

UNCF colleges are trying to meet the problem. Besides providing financial aid and work study programs, the tuitions are purposely kept low. The average is $1,060......much lower than other independent institutions.