

The Wright Kind of Commitment

The Rev. Jeremiah Wright, pastor

of Trinity United Church of Christ in Chicago, takes his commitment to The College Fund seriously. A graduate of UNCF member institution Virginia Union University, he

believes churches should be on the cutting edge of support for historically black colleges and universities (HBCUs).

In 1974, he committed to a three-year fundraising drive for black colleges. At the end of the third year, he realized that his congregants had gotten into the habit of supporting higher education, so he simply continued the campaign and donated the money to UNCF. Over the years, Trinity Church has contributed nearly \$135,000 to The College Fund.

"It's important to support UNCF because they have a track record of helping kids finish college," Wright says. "UNCF colleges take a personal interest in the students' lives and growth, and the students get a foundation that builds their sense of self worth — and that prepares them for the realities of the world."

In addition to this financial support, Wright and Trinity Church



Reverend Jeremiah Wright

work to inform Chicago-area students and their families about UNCF and HBCUs. "When I got to Chicago in 1969, the kids here couldn't name any black colleges, and the high school counselors didn't tell them about that

option," Wright recalls. "So we really focused on teaching them about the benefits of black colleges." As a result of these efforts, more than 200 Trinity youth have attended HBCUs. ■

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Ford Puts Students on the Road to Success

The Ford Motor Company's recent \$3.3 million grant will support the Ford-UNCF Corporate Scholars Program. The program — another step in the more than 20-year relationship between Ford Motor Company and The College Fund — will provide a number of deserving minority students with three-year, \$5,000–\$15,000 scholarships, internships and mentoring opportunities. The program is designed for juniors, seniors and graduate students who are studying engineering and business. "The Scholars Program is the fruit of a partnership that is focused on increasing the pool of talented students available to business," says Jacques Nasser, president and CEO of Ford Motor Company. "At Ford, we recognize the importance of growing and attracting outstanding people who can make a real difference through their leadership."