



# Portfolio project: Bridging a Pathway to Success

**We did it! We graduated the UNCF Portfolio Project Class of 2020 - 2021, even in a pandemic!**

**BY NINEVAH RUDOLPH LOWERY**

In today's competitive climate advanced education is the gateway to growth and opportunities for an improved standard of living. This is especially true for Black Americans that have endured generations of poverty and lower economic status. Higher living standards and established respectability in society don't come easy for disadvantaged students, often deprived of higher education due to inadequate funding and college preparedness. That is why UNCF, the country's largest and most effective minority education organization, is committed to helping students navigate the path to college by investing in both students and 37 historically Black colleges and universities, enabling students to get the college education they need to support the growing needs of our nation.

Today, the UNCF Portland Leadership Council, a dedicated group of communi-

ty leaders, donate time and resources to propel minority youth to higher education. Under the direction of Leadership Council Chair Michelle M. Harper, the volunteer group collaborates with UNCF Pacific NW to provide programs and activities for Portfolio Project participants, and to raise funds for scholarships that support students and HBCUs. Student participants are guided through the college application process and matriculate to colleges and universities.

**Portfolio Project, UNCF's Signature College Preparatory Program**, is proud

of its 15+ years of service to students in Washington and Oregon, providing them with college readiness, mentoring, and financial assistance. With a rich history dating back to the 1970s, UNCF's Portland presence started with involvement and support from the Oregon Alliance of Black School Educators; Black churches, sororities, and fraternities; and scholarship fundraising through the annual UNCF Evening of Stars and UNCF Walks. UNCF's Portfolio Project for juniors and seniors was held virtually during the pandemic. New in-person cohorts will launch on September 24, 2022 at two new sites, Warner Pacific University and Clark College. We thank Warner Pacific University President, Dr. Brian L. Johnson, and Clark College President, Dr. Karin Edwards, for hosting our pro-



gram. Prior to the pandemic, Dr. Karin Edwards hosted the program at Portland Community College, Cascade Campus. This year, UNCF's Portfolio Project provided \$100K in scholarships to students in Oregon and Washington.

UNCF believes that "A mind is a terrible thing to waste." Please join our efforts to make a difference in the lives of our youth. For partnership opportunities, ways to volunteer, or to make a donation please contact Linda Thompson-Black, Pacific NW UNCF Area Development Director, at Linda.Thompson-Black@UNCF.org, 206-292-8859 or Michelle M. Harper, Chair of UNCF Portland Leadership Council, at infoportland@uncf.org, 503-548-3083.

#### UNCF Portland Leadership Council

Michelle M. Harper - Board Chair, Tamara Brown, Zachary Clay, Dominique Debnam, Tiffany Dempsey, Joy Fowler, Bob Gravely, Sheila Holden, Devon Horace, Mimi Hunter, Ramiah Israel, Keyanus Jacobo, Carol Johnson, Denise Johnson, Shauncey Mashia, Kelly L. Michael, Larry Miller, April Murphy, Whitney Pettigrew, Nia Rayford, Cameryn Rutlin, Shelia Searight, Patricia Simpson, Jesse Welch, Jo'Rita Williams, Patricia Williams, Robyn Williams

#### 2020-2021 UNCF Portland Portfolio Project Graduates

Abraham Tegegne, Elisabeth Assaye, Johnni Li, Kidus Solomon, Rachel Fay Uy, Ada Garza, Imara Moore, Julien Odom, Ma'alo Gaoteote, Rein Johnson, Aryn Spencer, Isabella Chalmers, Karina Talton, Maya Garcia, Robert Willis, Asukulu Songolo, Ivanna Garza, Katherine Johnson, M'munga Songolo, Thelema Davis, Eden Yonas, Jacqueline Smith, Kelaiah Bostic, Natalie Cetina-Huchin, Victoria Robinson, Elijah Truitt, Jaryn Barefield, Keziah Hollands, Paul-Louis Thomas, Yamlak Gebre

#### We are excited to invite the community

to our Each One Teach One Jazz In The Garden Luncheon on July 17, 2022, an in-person event at the Hilton Portland Downtown. UNCF's Each One Teach One is the annual fundraiser that brings the village together to celebrate the

achievements of students, the work of community leaders, and the partners and sponsors that raise funds to support UNCF's Portfolio Project and college scholarships. We are excited to recognize Michelle M. Harper as our Individual of The Year Honoree, and to show appreciation for our leaders in education, area businesses, civic leaders, and others. Please contact Linda.Thompson-Black@uncf.org for sponsorship opportunities. For more information, tickets sales, or to make a donation please visit UNCF.org/EOTO.

#### UNCF Portland Community Partners

UNCF is proud of the work that we do to support students, but we could not realize our goals without the generous support of community partners and sponsors whose resources and contributions enable us to operate our programs and award scholarships. We extend our utmost gratitude and sincere appreciation to our sponsors, donors, and leadership council members for their generosity and dedication;

Adidas, Alaska Airlines, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated, Andersen Construction, Brooks Foundation, Bureau of Environmental Services, Care Oregon, City of Portland, Clark College, Consolidated Metco, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Glow Booth, Heritage Bank NW, Hyatt Regency, Intel, Jordan Brand, Kaiser Permanente—Oregon/Washington, KATU 2 TV, Legacy Emanuel Medical Center, Meyer Memorial Trust, Moda Health, Nike, Nordstrom, NW Natural, Oregon Community Foundation, Oregon Health Sciences University, Oregonian Season of Sharing Program, PacifiCorp, PGEFoundation, Port of Portland, Portland (OR) Chapter of The Links, Inc., Portland Community College, Cascade Campus, Portland Community Reinvestment Initiatives, Portland Observer, Portland Trailblazers, Providence Health, The Nightwood Society, The Skanner, Umpqua Bank, US Bank, Vanport Jazz Festival, Warner Pacific University, Willamette Management Associates

**UNCF**  
A mind is a terrible thing to waste

# PORTFOLIO PROJECT

## COLLEGE PREPARATORY PROGRAM

GRADES 11TH & 12TH

**WHAT WE OFFER:**

- MENTORSHIP
- SCHOLARSHIP
- ESSAY WRITING
- WORKSHOPS
- FINANCIAL LITERACY
- SAT/ACT PREP

**APPLY NOW!**

SEPTEMBER 24TH - DECEMBER 10TH

WWW.UNCF.ORG/PORTFOLIOPROJECT