

For Immediate Release  
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## **Talladega College President Dr. Billy C. Hawkins Speaks at UNCF National Event in Washington, D.C.**



(Talladega, AL) Talladega College President Dr. Billy C. Hawkins spoke at the UNCF (United Negro College Fund) National Press Event, UNCF: The Next 25 Years, in Washington D.C. on April 25, 2019. He is pictured here with UNCF President and CEO Dr. Michael Lomax and UNCF Executive Vice President Maurice Jenkins.

Dr. Hawkins serves as UNCF chair of the 36 presidents of member institutions; chair of the executive committee of member institutions; vice chair of the corporate board; and vice chair of the corporate board executive committee.

In his speech, Dr. Hawkins noted that the college presidents he represents are proud to be members of UNCF and greatly appreciate the funds they receive from UNCF for various needs, including operations, grants and scholarships for their students, and technical support. During the past 75 years, UNCF has helped nearly half a million students earn college degrees. UNCF is celebrating its 75th anniversary with events at its headquarters in Washington, DC and an online giving campaign.

Dr. Hawkins has served as president of Talladega College since 2008. Under his leadership, the College has been completely transformed and revitalized. During his first year at the College, he implemented rigorous plans for renovation and growth. As a result of his vision, enrollment doubled from just over 300 students to 601 students in one semester; athletic programs were reinstated for the first time in ten years; and major campus beautification projects were undertaken. Today Talladega College has over 1000 students and is listed among the Princeton Review's 2019 best colleges in the Southeast and U.S. News and World Report's 2019 best regional colleges and best HBCUs.

The campus is undergoing a major physical transformation. A new residence hall opened in January, 2019. A student center and a new museum, the Dr. William R. Harvey Museum of Art, are under construction and scheduled to open in the fall. The College has also launched its first-ever graduate program, an online Master of Science in Computer Information Systems.

### **About Talladega College**

The oldest private Historically Black College in Alabama, Talladega College was founded in 1867 by two former slaves, William Savery and Thomas Tarrant. Talladega College is the home of the renowned Hale Woodruff Amistad Murals, which received rave reviews from the *New York Times* during a three-year, eight-city tour.