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# PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Talladega College Receives \$1.25 Million Implementation Grant from the UNCF® Career Pathways Initiative



**Talladega, AL December 7, 2016:** Talladega College has been selected as a \$1.25 million implementation cluster grant recipient for the UNCF® Career Pathways Initiative (CPI), a highly-competitive grant process open to four-year historically black colleges and universities (HBCUs) and predominantly black institutions (PBIs) to ensure students gain exposure to expedite meaningful employment upon graduation. Talladega College will work in partnership with Oakwood University and Tougaloo College over the next five (5) years on this career pathways initiative.

Talladega College's career pathways initiative partnership will engage the campus, corporate community and alumni to provide mentorships and internships for students. The initiative will also serve as a model of best practices for meeting student needs as well as the global workforce demands in this ever changing market place. Talladega College will be at the forefront of this new and impactful venture.

"We were so excited to be selected to receive the UNCF® Career Pathways Initiative Grant. It was a competitive process and I applaud the great work of the Office of Sponsored Programs and our staff." – Dr. Billy C. Hawkins, President

Lilly Endowment Inc. committed \$50 million in October 2015 to launch the UNCF CPI to improve the job placement outcomes of graduates from HBCUs and PBIs. Institutions will employ various strategies to achieve this goal, including aligning curricula with local and national workforce needs, developing intentional career pathway options for students across their collegiate experience, and strengthening their career service operations. The collective implementation grant distribution totals \$ 35.3 million, which has the potential to assist more than 54,000 students across the 24 colleges and universities.

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Talladega College is the first college in Alabama to admit students of African American descent. Founded in 1867 by two former slaves, William Savery and Thomas Tarrant, Talladega College is also, the home of the Famous Amistad Murals painted by Hale A. Woodruff. The College has an aggressive tradition of bringing the world to Talladega and offers 18 majors that provide students with an education that prepares them for the 21st Century workforce. For more information, visit [www.talladega.edu](http://www.talladega.edu).

#### About Lilly Endowment Inc.



Lilly Endowment Inc. is a private philanthropic foundation created in 1937 by three members of the Lilly family—J.K. Lilly Sr. and sons J.K. Jr. and Eli—through gifts of stock in their pharmaceutical business, Eli Lilly and Company. Although those gifts remain the financial bedrock of the Endowment, the Endowment is a separate entity from the company, with a distinct governing board, staff and location. In keeping with its founders' wishes, the Endowment supports the causes of community development, education and religion. Although it maintains a special commitment to its hometown, Indianapolis, and home state, Indiana, it does support efforts of national significance particularly in the field of religion and on an invitational basis disaster relief and recovery efforts and programs that enhance higher education opportunities for African Americans, Latinos and Native Americans across the country. More information can be found at [www.lillyendowment.org](http://www.lillyendowment.org).

#### About UNCF



UNCF (United Negro College Fund) is the nation's largest and most effective minority education organization. To serve youth, the community and the nation, UNCF supports students' education and development through scholarships and other programs, strengthens its 37 member colleges and universities, and advocates for the importance of minority education and college readiness. UNCF institutions and other historically black colleges and universities are highly effective, awarding nearly 20 percent of African American baccalaureate degrees. UNCF awards more than \$100 million in scholarships annually and administers more than 400 programs, including scholarship, internship and fellowship, mentoring, summer enrichment, and curriculum and faculty development

programs. Today, UNCF supports more than 60,000 students at more than 1,100 colleges and universities across the country. Its logo features the UNCF torch of leadership in education and its widely recognized trademark: A mind is a terrible thing to waste®. Learn more at UNCF.org, or for continuous news and updates, follow UNCF on Twitter, @UNCF and #UNCF CPI.

*The oldest private Historically Black College in Alabama, Talladega College was founded in 1867 by two former slaves, William Savery and Thomas Tarrant. The College has an aggressive tradition of bringing the world to Talladega and offers 18 majors that provide students with an education that prepares them for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century workforce. For more information, visit [www.talladega.edu](http://www.talladega.edu).*