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## Media Advisory

### UNCF to Lead Panel Discussions during National Charter School Conference in Austin

**WASHINGTON, DC** (June 15, 2018) —UNCF (United Negro College Fund) President and CEO Dr. Michael L. Lomax, Fisk University President Dr. Kevin Rome, and other UNCF national staff members will lead two panel discussions on June 18 and 19, during the National Charter Schools Conference, being held in Austin, TX. The sessions seek to broaden the understanding of HBCUs (historically black colleges and universities) and emphasize the importance of community engagement to improve overall outcomes for African American students.

#### DETAILS:

***Panel discussion: “Connecting Dots and Aligning Visions: HBCU and Charter School Partnerships” - Monday, June 18, 3:30-4:45 p.m. Hilton Austin, Salon F***

- Dr. Michael Lomax, president and CEO, UNCF
- Dr. Kevin Rome, president, Fisk University
- Sekou Biddle, vice president, K-12 Advocacy, UNCF
- Khalia Murray, former UNCF-Walton K-12 Fellow and current pre-K teacher at DC Prep
- Kathryn Procope, head of school, Howard University Middle School of Math and Science

***Panel discussion: “With Us, Not to Us: Community-Centered Reform” - Tuesday, June 19, 2:00-3:15 p.m. Hilton Austin, Salon K***

- Naomi N. Shelton, national director, K-12 Advocacy, UNCF
- Dr. Meredith B.L. Anderson, senior research associate, K-12 Advocacy, UNCF
- Kenya Adjekum Bradshaw, vice president, The New Teacher Project
- Tyler Lewis, director of messaging and project development, Leadership Conference Education Fund
- Maya Martin, founder and executive director, PAVE

**BACKGROUND:** UNCF, through its [K-12 advocacy and community engagement efforts](#), has released reports and created resources for parents, grassroots leaders, and community members to amplify the need to improve educational outcomes for African American students. These resources amplify the [perceptions of K-12 education reform](#) efforts and shift the narrative of

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what is possible for students. The two panel discussions will help give voice to many of the insights reached through the research about how parents, students and local community leaders all have a role to play in demanding improvements in K-12 education for students of color. Follow the discussion on social media using the #UNCFK12 and #NCSC18 hashtags.

**MORE INFO:** Media availability can be accommodated. Please contact Monique LeNoir for more information at [Monique.lenoir@UNCF.org](mailto:Monique.lenoir@UNCF.org) or by calling 202.810.0231.

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***About UNCF***

UNCF 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 1,110 colleges and universities across the country. Its logo features the UNCF torch of leadership in education and its widely recognized motto, "A mind is a terrible thing to waste."<sup>®</sup>