

*President*

Nancie Rissing

Dear Partners of Irving ISD,

*President-elect*

Beth Bowman

I am excited to share with you a new opportunity being launched this year for Irving Independent School District (IISD) students. For the first time, scholarships will be offered, through the Irving Schools Foundation, to deserving seniors to attend a UNCF college or university. For those of you that are not familiar, UNCF is the nation's largest and most effective minority education organization.

*Vice Presidents*

Joy Apple

Ray Cerda

Christina Gears

Gerri Kunstadt

I am honored to have been selected to chair this campaign to support the new initiative to raise funds for deserving students to attend a historically black college or university (HBCU) in the fall of 2012. **As an alumna of Irving ISD schools (MacArthur High '94) and an HBCU (Spelman College '98)**, I have a unique perspective and commitment to supporting IISD students in their pursuit of a quality education at HBCUs. The education I received in IISD schools provided the strong background necessary to gain admission and excel at Spelman College.

*Secretary*

Robert Martinez

HBCUs have played and continue to play a very important role in educating minority students in our country. Specifically now at a time when a college degree has become the minimum entry-level requirement for almost every well-paying career, the UNCF plays a critical role in provide access to more than 65,000 students each year to attend college and receive a quality education.

*Treasurer*

Keith Murray

Despite the relatively small size of UNCF schools, the significant impact of the educational system is wide spread. Although, private and public HBCUs represent only three percent of all American colleges and universities and enroll only fourteen percent of African American college students, the alumni achievement results are staggering.

*Past President*

Phil Sims

- 70% of all African American dentists and physicians are UNCF alumni
- 50% of all African American engineers are UNCF alumni
- 50% of all African American public school teachers are UNCF alumni
- 35% of all African American attorneys are UNCF alumni

*Board Members*

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Bret Brummitt

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Phillip Standley

Burnell Stehman

Oliver Wright

I can attest to the high success rate of UNCF alumni by looking no further than my Spelman classmates, who are achieving in all areas of business, education, law, politics and medicine. The quality education I received as a student at Spelman College has prepared me for not only the rigors of law school, but also as a leader in the community working to provide opportunities and access to disadvantaged youth.

Thank you in advance for your support of this exciting new initiative. Please feel free to contact me at [cdtullous@central.uh.edu](mailto:cdtullous@central.uh.edu) or Mandy Hamilton in the Foundation office at [MandyHamilton@irvingisd.net](mailto:MandyHamilton@irvingisd.net) if you have any questions. I hope that you will join me in providing support for future generations to attend a UNCF school to assist in preparing the next generation of leaders of our country.

Sincerely,

Cordelia D. Tullous