



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Unite, Inc. Awarded \$2.1 Million Rural Postsecondary & Economic Development Grant from U.S. Department of Education

Lafayette, AL – June 13, 2024 – Unite, Inc. is thrilled to announce that it has been awarded a \$2.1 million Rural Postsecondary & Economic Development Grant from the U.S. Department of Education. This significant grant will greatly enhance our mission to improve postsecondary education and economic development in rural communities, particularly in Chambers County.

Unite, Inc. is dedicated to fostering educational opportunities and economic growth in underserved areas. This substantial funding will allow an expansion of Unite’s programs and increase the number of students served from 60 to over 600 in Chambers County. By providing vital resources and support, the non-profit aims to bridge the gap in educational access and economic development, ensuring that rural communities receive the attention and investment they deserve. “We are honored to receive this grant from the Department of Education,” said Travis Smith, Founder and Executive Director of Unite, Inc. “This funding will enable us to make a meaningful impact in rural communities, providing students with the resources they need to succeed and helping to drive economic growth. We look forward to working with our partners to implement these initiatives and make a positive difference in the lives of many.”

The grant will be used to implement programs that address the unique challenges faced by rural students and communities. This includes expanding access to higher education, providing free ACT test preparation, and supporting local high schools with supplemental resources to bolster student success both academically and holistically. Unite, Inc. will also work closely with district leaders, higher education institutions, and local organizations to ensure the success of these initiatives.

Unite has achieved remarkable success through its College Prep Program, positively impacting the lives of numerous students in rural Alabama. The organization has successfully conducted eight college tours, providing students with invaluable exposure to higher education institutions. Graduating high school seniors have collectively secured \$43 million in scholarships, enabling them to pursue their educational goals. Additionally, 59 students have completed the program, boasting a 100% high school graduation rate. Participants have, on average, improved their ACT scores by approximately four points, enhancing their college admission prospects.

About Unite Inc:

Founded in 2011, Unite aims to increase college access, achievement, and degree attainment among students in rural Alabama. Our mission is to connect high school students to HBCUs and HBCU students to opportunities. The college prep program utilizes workshops, seminars, peer mentoring, and tutoring to achieve these goals. Over four years, students engage in monthly workshops covering topics such as team building, mental health, cultural and civic lessons, college applications, and standardized ACT test prep.

For more information about Unite, Inc. visit unitehbcu.org or contact:

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