



Christina Blakely
Director of Public Relations
434.848.6412
CBlakely@saintpauls.edu

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



**UNCF Celebrates 30th Anniversary of *An Evening of Stars*
UNCF Salutes Patti LaBelle With its Highest Honor**

Lawrenceville, VA: August 29, 2008 – The United Negro College Fund (UNCF) celebrates the 30th anniversary of *An Evening of Stars* (AEOS) with a salute to Patti LaBelle. The songbird from Philadelphia, who has earned her rightful place among rhythm and blues royalty, will be honored by UNCF, the nation's largest minority higher education assistance organization, on its 30th annual television special *An Evening of Stars* presented by Target. The two-hour tribute will honor LaBelle before a live audience at the Kodak Theatre in Hollywood on September 13, 2008. It will be televised nationwide in January 2009.

The Grammy-winning R&B/soul singer will receive UNCF's prestigious Award of Excellence in recognition of her distinguished career as an artist and performer and for her longstanding support of UNCF. Previous AEOS Award of Excellence honorees include Smokey Robinson, Aretha Franklin, Steve Wonder, Quincy Jones and Lou Rawls.

"Throughout her career, from the first notes she sang in her church choir through her four decades as a renowned vocalist, Patti LaBelle has exemplified the dedication to excellence that UNCF honors and supports," said Michael L. Lomax, president and CEO of UNCF. "Through her best-selling books and the numerous businesses she has started and seen through to success and, most of all, through her generous support of UNCF and many other charities, Patti embodies the spirit of UNCF's iconic motto, 'A mind is a terrible thing to waste.'"

A music industry icon, LaBelle birthed and developed a new era of women's music, and in the process has influenced a new generation of female singers. Known for her strong vocals, her signature high-octave vocal belting and a range considered to be one of the highest in music, she is recognized as one of the country's greatest female vocalists.

The list of accolades and awards Patti LaBelle has received is long and illustrious. She has won two Grammy Awards, seven NAACP Image Awards, two American Music Awards, a Cable Ace Award and received three Emmy Award nominations. She has a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame, and in 1997, she received a Soul Train Lifetime Achievement Award. LaBelle's work as a humanitarian is as legendary as her entertainment career. Over the years, she has been a frequent performer on *An Evening of Stars* and is an advocate for adoption, foster care, Big Sisters, the American Diabetes Association and numerous other charities.

— #### —