On Thursday, February 25, Hampton University unveiled its new, state-of-the-art, COVID-19 Testing and Vaccination Station at the historic Emancipation Oak, on its campus. The upgraded RV is equipped with pharmacy-grade freezers capable of sustaining the COVID-19 vaccine, while the vehicle distributes the doses to underserved areas around Hampton Roads. The station will travel to areas where the virus is disproportionally affecting people of color. Hampton University has been serving the local community since its inception and this new mobile testing and vaccination station will continue that legacy.

“Hampton University has the financing, capacity, and knowledge through our subject matter experts in our Schools of Nursing, Pharmacy, Science, Scripps Howard School of Journalism and Communications, and the Hampton University Proton Therapy Institute to help fight this terrible virus,” said Dr. William R. Harvey, Hampton University President. “Hampton University is uniquely qualified and prepared to deliver this much-needed life-saving service to our underserved communities.”

The mobile testing and vaccination station is just another example of Hampton University doing its part to serve the region and help combat this deadly virus. Dr. Harvey and other local leaders received the COVID-19 vaccine in December of 2020 to publicly support taking the vaccine and encourage the African American community to take it as well. The African American community has had a long-standing fear and hesitancy as it relates to taking vaccines since the Tuskegee Experiment in 1932.

The mobile vaccination clinic can hold 500 shots and will be used throughout the region. The RV was a half-million-dollar project, funded by donations to Hampton University and built by STX.

“To go into the low-income, underserved, African-American, Hispanic communities, the elderly communities, and public housing communities, was the charge we were given when we started designing this mobile unit in August,” said Dr. Michelle Penn-Marshall, Hampton University vice president for research and associate provost. “Many of the vaccinators actually look like the people in the community that they’re serving,” Penn-Marshall said.

Hampton University has also entered into a partnership with the Hampton VA Medical Center to use the HU Convocation Center as a vaccination site exclusively for veterans and their caregivers beginning March 8. The vaccination site will be managed by the Hampton VA Medical Center.

“Hampton University has inquired with the state to be a fully operational state vaccination site but the requests were unanswered,” said Associate V. P. of Governmental Relations Bill Thomas. “This mobile testing and vaccination station is just one way we can serve our community on our own.”

Hampton University is working with the state and local governmental agencies to secure and distribute vaccines to the general public.
UnitedHealthcare Community Plan of Virginia Donates $30,000 to Hampton University School of Nursing to Fund Tuition and Housing Scholarships

To ensure that Hampton University Nursing students are able to return and complete courses study requirements after the negative impact of COVID-19, the UnitedHealthcare Community Plan of Virginia has donated $30,000 to address housing and tuition needs for Hampton University School of Nursing students.

“UnitedHealthcare Community Plan of Virginia’s generosity will assist students in the Hampton University School of Nursing receive financial assistance despite any hardships that may be a result of the global pandemic,” said Hampton University President, Dr. William R. Harvey. “This gift will help Hampton University cultivate the next generation of highly trained individuals in the sought after field of health care.”

UnitedHealthcare Community Plan of Virginia provides Medicaid coverage to children, pregnant women, families, and adults with special health care needs.

“Our partnership with Hampton University is just one way UnitedHealthcare is making investments in creating a 21st-century health workforce that is ready to deliver personalized, culturally competent care, particularly in underserved communities,” said Tameeka L. Smith, CEO of the UnitedHealthcare Community Plan of Virginia. The support from UnitedHealthcare Community Plan of Virginia will be available to nursing students for the spring 2021 semester. Support will be provided to ten students who each will receive $3,000, of which $2,000 will be provided to support off-campus housing and $1,000 to support tuition needs. All scholarship disbursements will be managed through the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships.

“We appreciate this investment in our students,” said Dr. Shevellanie Lott, Dean of the School of Nursing. “The COVID-19 pandemic has so negatively impacted our students and this support is not only timely but will ease some of the financial burden from the students and their family.”

“We are thrilled with this contribution,” said Hampton University Center of Gerontology director, Dr. Ethlyn Gibson. “It is so needed, and our students will benefit so much for the gift. We are excited to have established this relationship with the UnitedHealthcare Community Plan of Virginia, and we are using this initial engagement as a means for us to begin strategizing on ways to partner in the future. It’s an exciting time with so much promise, and we are truly excited.

Hampton University Graduate One of Target’s HBCU Black History Month Design Challenge Winners

Hampton University recent graduate, Isaiah Timmons, is one of the top three winners of Target’s inaugural HBCU Black History Month Design Challenge.

“This is a wonderful accomplishment and on behalf of Hampton University, we are thrilled to see our Hamptonians upholding THE Standard of Excellence,” said Hampton University President, Dr. William R. Harvey. “We are very proud of our alumni who represent their alma mater well on a national stage.”

The HBCU Design Challenge is a competition to design t-shirt artwork and graphics for the Target 2021 Black History Month campaign. Out of nine total winners, Timmons placed in the top three.

“I was a senior during this pandemic, which forced me into the post-graduate mindset pre-maturely. This opportunity gave me hope and excitement for what the future holds. It’s a huge springboard for me as an artist, what I’m able to create, and also for my career. Not many people get the kind of exposure that Target is offering for artists following college graduation. I am pleased and very blessed,” said Timmons.

Timmons is a 2020 graduate of Hampton University, where he earned his Bachelor of Fine Arts in Graphic Design. During his tenure at Hampton University, he was a member of HU Men’s Caucus, HU Football Team, Brother to Brother, and the Freddye T. Davy Honor’s College.

The top three winners of the challenge received:
- $1,500 Prize
- Apple MacBook Pro 16’
- Adobe Creative Cloud 2 Yr. Membership
- Exclusive 1-Hour consultation with Target Senior Design Leaders
- Possibility of having their winning design included in the Target Black History Month Product assortment for sale in 2021

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The donated equipment and software will assist greatly in Hampton’s School of Engineering and Technology’s efforts to update, upgrade, and create more innovative laboratory spaces in its school. “We have developed a bold approach for laboratory management. The design utilizes state-of-the-art labs, married for use in other disciplines throughout the University. This equipment is not just nice to have but will be absolutely critical for us in providing hands-on learning opportunities for our students when they return to campus,” said Dr. Joyce Shirazi, Dean.

“Our dedicated student academic experience is one of the most important aspects of what we do. In spite of the COVID-19 pandemic, our faculty members have gone to great lengths to deliver the essential concepts of their labs to students through online teaching methods. But it’s been difficult. So, we desperately need to have equipment which allows our students learn in remote environments. Through Keysight’s generosity, with remote learning lab solutions, we now can do that,” added Dr. Demetris Geddis, Assistant Dean.

“We are delighted in our partnership with Hampton – one of the most prominent HBCUs in the world. In response to the pandemic, Hampton is rapidly adapting to remote learning and Keysight’s remote access lab solution will enable students to conduct experiments as required for COVID-19 safety protocols. When students return to the university labs, they’ll have direct exposure to new and cutting edge laboratory equipment and software. This will help them gain further confidence so they can ‘hit the ground running’ when they begin their professional careers,” shared Dr. Douglas M. Baney, Corporate Director of Education for Keysight Technologies.

Keysight’s corporate gift will enhance the professional competitiveness of Hampton University’s engineering students. The $554,000 donation specifically includes the following elements:

**Electronic Test Instruments:**
This equipment is critically important for engineering students. The equipment includes advanced oscilloscopes, power supplies, multimeters and function generators that enable measurement of individual electronic components and complex circuits.

**IoT Courseware:** This enables students to embark on engineering design careers in the emerging “Internet of Things” (IoT) world. Students will learn about embedded sensors, software, and communications technologies for the purpose of connecting and exchanging data with other devices and systems over the internet.

**Microwave Analyzers:** This high-frequency equipment allows students access to the same professional tools that are used in industry to design applications in 5G/6G wireless, aerospace-defense, and satellite systems. Top-performing students completing microwave studies at Hampton will be eligible for Keysight’s Industry-Ready Microwave Certification, a mark of distinction in technical readiness.

**Remote Data Acquisition and Switching:** Remote data acquisition equipment combined with Keysight’s BenchVue and lab scheduling software allows students to remotely access electronic laboratories during and after the pandemic.

Finally, as critical as the hardware is for the program, Keysight also included software upgrades for this equipment as part of the gift.
Diageo’s permanent endowment fund is underwritten with a $975,000 gift

Hampton University has been named a recipient of a $1 million gift from Diageo North America to create a permanent endowment fund and provide financial aid grants to talented students across different disciplines and majors. This is part of a broader innovative program that Diageo North America announced to support 25 Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), focused on building opportunities to develop future leaders and help shape a more equitable society. The initiative is expected to benefit thousands of students over the years across the country.

“Many thanks to Diageo North America for its investment in our students and the 24 other HBCUs involved in this initiative. This contribution will ensure our talented and bright students will continue to receive an education for life,” said Hampton University President, Dr. William R. Harvey.

Named the Diageo Endowed Scholarship Fund, the scholarship will be available in perpetuity to support 10 Hampton University students annually. Awards will be $2,000 each. Student recipients must be sophomores, juniors or seniors, and must have a minimum GPA of 2.75. The scholarship is open to all majors, but preference will be given to Engineering, Chemistry, Marketing, and Communications majors.

The Diageo Last Dollar Scholarship Fund has been established to last one year. The investment of $25,000 will provide 20 scholarships of $1250 each for students meeting the criteria previously identified. It will specifically ensure that students in need will receive financial assistance which otherwise would not be available to pay outstanding balances on University accounts.

With a goal of helping to change the complexion of the industry, Diageo North America has also committed to taking a step to build a pipeline of talented leaders through an internship platform over the coming years and Hampton University will be part of it. The company will provide opportunities for HBCU students to gain valuable work experience at a fast pace that could help them with their future career aspirations or jump-start their career in the consumer goods industry.

“We are proud to partner with these esteemed institutions and to do our part to help shape a more equitable society by providing opportunities for future leaders,” said Debra Crew, President, Diageo North America. “This initiative further deepens Diageo’s commitment to making a long term and sustainable impact on underrepresented communities.”

“I am convinced that broader opportunity is the key for African American students to be able to go into the world to change it for the better and make bold and new exciting ideas come to life,” said Erica J. Johnson, Director, Federal Affairs & Diageo USVI at Diageo North America and Hampton University Alum. “Diageo’s endowment program will have a positive impact across the HBCU community, and I look forward to seeing the many doors it will open to talented students in the years to come.”

This initiative was created by working closely with Diageo North America’s African Heritage Business Resource Group (A.H.E.A.D.) to focus on the priorities and actions, along with the right partnerships, to make the most meaningful impact in the Black community.

To learn more about Diageo’s work to support the communities where it operates, including company values, visit www.diageo.com.