



Programmatic Increases and Investments in the FY2018 Omnibus Appropriations Bill

The following programmatic increases in the FY 2018 omnibus are, meaningful to communities of color in higher education:

- The maximum **Pell Grant** award was increased by \$175 to \$6,095. This program invests in the students most in need, coming from lower-income backgrounds, and affords them an opportunity at an education.
- The Title III, **Strengthening HBCUs program** at the Department of Education was increased by \$34.9 million, bringing the discretionary total for Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) to \$279 million. Instrumental in this effort was a bipartisan coalition of members from both Houses. In the Senate, Sen. Doug Jones (AL) wrote a letter, with 12 senators from 14 states in support. He was joined in that effort by Sen. Kamala Harris (CA), an HBCU graduate. The Congressional Black Caucus (CBC) also helped on this request with multiple letters.
- The Title III, **Strengthening Historically Black Graduate Institutions (HBGI) Program** was increased by \$9 million, bringing the total to \$72 million. This is a program for HBCUs with doctoral programs, recognizing the outsized contributions HBCUs have made in professions such as medicine, dentistry, pharmacy, veterinary medicine, law, and engineering.
- The **Predominantly Black Institutions Program** was increased by \$1.4 million, bringing the total to \$16.4 million.
- The Title III, **Strengthening HBCU Master's Program** was increased by \$1 million, bringing the total to \$8.5 million.
- The **Minority Science and Engineering Improvement Programs** were increased by \$1.3 million, bringing the total to \$10.6 million.
- The **Child Care Access for Parents in School Program** was increased by \$34 million, bringing the total to \$49 million. This program allows campus-based child care programs, helping low-income students, who are also parents, further their education.
- **Howard University's** academic programs, hospital, and endowment received a \$10.6 million increase, bringing total federal support to \$232 million.
- The **HBCU Capital Finance Program** was increased by \$10 million, bringing the total to \$30 million. The program provides financial resources at a lower interest rate for HBCUs to build new buildings on their campuses. The additional \$10 million was added with authority for the Education Secretary to grant deferment for qualifying private HBCUs participating in the program. Rep. Alma Adams (NC) and Rep. Ted Budd (NC) worked together in bipartisan fashion with other members, like Rep. Bobby Scott (VA) to achieve relief for institutions. "Following the first ever HBCU STEAM Day of Action, I'm thrilled to see the critical resources for HBCUs that our coalition advocated for such as the expansion of the capital financing program included in the 2018 omnibus. This measure will ensure security for nearly a dozen HBCUs and the students they serve," Sen. Tim Scott said. Bennett College's representative, Congressman Ted Budd said, "It is an honor to serve the district where Bennett College is located. This institution has made a rich contribution to North Carolina and the



nation. I am proud to have worked in a bipartisan way to invest in Bennett and other HBCUs. I look forward to how the HBCU Capital Finance Program's period of deferment will help us make sure Bennett's best days are still to come."

- The **HBCU Hurricane Supplemental Loan Program** received a total of \$90 million.
- The **Office of Civil Rights at the Department of Education** was increased by \$8.5 million.
- \$5 million was invested in a pilot program on open textbooks, which seeks to bring down the cost of college.
- The **Federal TRIO Programs** were collectively increased by \$60 million, bringing the total to \$1.1 billion. Often housed on HBCU campuses, these pipeline programs help minority and low-income students achieve higher education.
- **GEAR-UP** funding increased by \$10 million.
- The **National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities at NIH** was increased by \$14.1 million. The institute is the federal base for health disparities research to understand why health-related issues disproportionately impact certain minority groups.
- The **Minority University Research and Education Project at NASA** was funded at \$32 million.
- The **HBCU Undergraduate Program at the National Science Foundation (NSF)** was funded at \$35 million.
- The **Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation at NSF** was funded at \$46 million, which assists universities and colleges in diversifying the nation's STEM workforce.
- The **Education Partnership Program / Minority Serving Institutions (MSI) Program** at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) was funded at \$15.5 million, an increase of \$1.5 million.
- The **Department of Defense's HBCU / MI Program** was increased by \$7 million, bringing the total to \$40 million. The program strengthens the capabilities of the institutions to conduct basic and applied research and increases the quality and quantity of STEM programs with a focus on minority researchers and graduates. A bipartisan group of lawmakers worked together to authorize the program at \$40 million in the National Defense Authorization Act and to increase the appropriation to the same level, including Rep. Anthony Brown (MD), Rep. Hank Johnson (GA), Rep. Adams (NC), Sen. Sherrod Brown (OH), and Sen. Tim Scott (SC). Rep. Anthony Brown said, "I am proud to have worked to successfully increase funding for the DoD HBCU/MI Program to \$40 million in the Omnibus Appropriations Act — a 54-percent increase and \$7 million above current levels. With bipartisan support, Congress is expanding a multi-year effort to increase DoD investments in HBCUs and enhance partnerships that will meet America's evolving national security needs. This program is critical to boosting STEM opportunities for our underrepresented communities and bolstering the pipeline of highly skilled, diverse graduates into the Armed Forces and other parts of the defense industrial base."

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