

A STRONG WHITE HOUSE EXECUTIVE ORDER ON HISTORICALLY BLACK COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

UNCF recommends that President Trump issue a strong Executive Order: *Promoting Excellence and Innovation at Historically Black Colleges and Universities and Increasing Their Participation in Federal Programs*, to establish a White House Initiative on HBCUs and advance HBCUs, as every President has done since President Carter in 1980. UNCF recommends these specific priorities for the Executive Order:

- establish the White House Initiative on HBCUs in the White House (rather than the U.S. Department of Education) with an Executive Director who reports to a Senior Advisor to the President;
- commit to an aspirational goal that HBCUs be awarded 5 percent of total federal grant, internship and cooperative agreement funding and 10 percent of total federal contract funding awarded to colleges and universities – which would nearly double federal support to HBCUs;
- back up the federal funding goals with concrete commitments for annual funding growth at each federal agency reflected in agency budgets;
- require transparent and timely reporting on progress to the President, the Congress, and HBCUs;
- designate a senior level executive in each federal agency to ensure oversight and implementation of those commitments; and
- ensure that the President’s Board of Advisors on HBCUs is representative of the full diversity of HBCUs and includes the presidents of the National Association for Equal Opportunity in Higher Education, Thurgood Marshall College Fund, and UNCF – the national HBCU advocacy organizations.

About HBCUs

HBCUs are a “best buy” for students and the nation. The nation’s 101 accredited HBCUs disproportionately enroll low-income, first-generation and academically underprepared college students – precisely the students that the country most needs to obtain college degrees.

In 2014:

- over 300,000 students attended HBCUs, including more than 50,000 students at UNCF-member institutions;
- approximately 80 percent of HBCU students were African Americans and 70 percent received Pell Grants.

In 2014, HBCUs comprised 3 percent of America’s colleges and universities¹, yet HBCUs:

- enrolled 10 percent of African American undergraduates;
- awarded 17 percent of African American bachelor’s degrees; and
- awarded 24 percent of African American STEM bachelor’s degrees.

HBCUs attained these results at an affordable price for students – about 30 percent less, on average, than other institutions, with fewer resources available to them.

¹ Defined here as all two- and four-year public and private nonprofit colleges and universities that participate in Title IV federal student aid programs.