



Congresswoman Alma Adams [Follow](#)

Member of Congress proudly representing the 12th District of North Carolina
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Bipartisan HBCU Caucus December Newsletter

Friends,

The Bipartisan Congressional Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) Caucus is a voice for HBCUs, their students, and alumni. The Caucus has 68 members in both the House and the Senate, working toward bipartisan solutions to the challenges our HBCUs face. Through legislative action, coalition building, and hosting events, we are moving the ball forward for many of the goals my co-chair, Representative Byrne (R-Ala.), and I set out to accomplish when this caucus was formed. Read on to see what we have been working on lately.

Best Regards,

Congresswoman Alma S. Adams, Ph.D.

Co-Chair, Bipartisan Congressional HBCU Caucus

From the Private Sector

Intel Pledges \$4.5 million for HBCUs toward STEM Field Development

Last year, 80 companies agreed to a White House pledge to increase diversity in the STEM fields. Intel was one of them, and has since made impactful advances toward the inclusion of African Americans in the tech workforce. On June 27, 2017, Intel pledged \$4.5 million to support STEM pathways for HBCU students. Of this \$4.5 million, \$3.9 million will be awarded directly to six HBCUs—including Florida A&M University, Morgan State University, Howard University, Prairie View A&M University, Tuskegee University and North Carolina A&T State—and the remaining \$600,000 will be used for tech workshops and

activities that will teach students relevant skills vital to entering the technology workforce.

The company has pledged to create a three-year Intel HBCU Grant Program that will invest in computer science, computer engineering and electrical engineering programs. The money will be allocated to universities in the form of scholarships, student experiences and tech industry workshops. This initiative will be a giant step toward the company's goal to reach full representation in their employment by 2018. Intel continues to transparently report data about their progress toward inclusion and diversity, and works tirelessly toward their mission to expand the technology workforce talent pipeline to African American students.

Strengthening the voice of HBCUs via the largest CEO-led commitment on diversity and inclusion

Bringing together more than 330 of the nation's top CEOs and university leaders, CEO Action for Diversity & Inclusion™ (CEO Action) is the largest CEO-led business commitment toward collective action around advancing diversity and inclusion within the workplace. Driven by a realization that addressing diversity and inclusion is one of today's most pressing societal issues, the pledge outlines a specific set of actions that companies, universities and colleges can take to cultivate trusting environments where all ideas are welcomed and people feel comfortable and empowered to discuss diversity and inclusion. As employers, educators and developers of the next generation of diverse leaders, HBCUs have a unique opportunity to engage in CEO Action and offer key insights that will help drive visibility in and recruiting by the business community at campuses across the country. For more information on the pledge, and how to engage fellow CEOs and university presidents, email idalia.hill@pwc.com for further details.

Meet the Caucus

Congressman Blaine Luetkemeyer represents Missouri's 3rd Congressional District. He is a proud alumnus of Lincoln University, a HBCU located in Jefferson City, Missouri, which is within the district that he now represents. Rep. Luetkemeyer has also been recognized by his alma mater with an Honorary Doctorate of Law.

Lincoln University was founded by the 62nd and 65th Black Regiments of the Civil War. The university is one of two Historically Black Land Grant Colleges And Universities in Missouri. Lincoln University is known for its superior academic and athletic programs and its nationally recognized band, the “Marching Musical Storm.”

Last February, Lincoln University celebrated its 150th Founders Convocation. During the event, the men from the 62nd and 65th Regiments were honored with a wreath laying ceremony; a panel of alumni discussed the living history of Lincoln University. Students and alumni were excited to recognize the school’s rich history and its bright future.

Rep. Luetkemeyer is proud to serve on the Congressional HBCU Caucus and values the importance of HBCUs, which have been crucial to providing access to higher education for so many Americans. As a member of the House Financial Services Committee, Luetkemeyer understands the importance of access to credit for students seeking higher education. In light of rising tuition costs and the fact that HBCU student borrowers are disproportionately dependent on federal loans compared to non-HBCU students, Rep. Luetkemeyer advocates for legislation that promotes job creation, economic freedom and availability of financial products.

Congressman Luetkemeyer serves on the House Financial Services Committee and is the Chairman on the Financial Institutions and Consumer Credit Subcommittee. He also serves as Vice Chairman of the House Small Business Committee.

HBCU Alumni on the Hill

Alyssa Betz is the Senior Director of Public Policy for Oath, the newly formed umbrella company for Yahoo and AOL. She lobbies Congress and the Administration to protect the policies that have created a free and open internet. Some of the policy issues she works on include copyright, government surveillance, data security and trade.

Prior to joining Yahoo in 2016, Alyssa worked at a boutique government relations firm where she represented tech clients on a range of policy issues. Before that, Alyssa was a Capitol Hill staffer for Rep. Mel Watt (D-NC-12) and focused on legislation related to patent

reform, internet regulation, copyright reform, government surveillance and criminal sentencing. She was also a liaison to the Congressional Black Caucus where she worked on policy initiatives aimed at African-American and other minority constituencies.

Before arriving on Capitol Hill, Alyssa served as a law clerk for the Honorable Judge Jeanette Clark in the District of Columbia Superior Court.

Alyssa received a juris doctorate from the Howard University School of Law and is licensed to practice in Maryland and the District of Columbia. She received her bachelor's degree in Political Science from Spelman College.

A native of Tucson, Arizona, she currently lives in Washington, D.C. with her husband and son.

Overheard on Campus

The STEM Early College at North Carolina A&T

The STEM Early College at North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University helps students get a head start on their higher education, with a program of accelerated learning for students who have a strong interest in science, technology, engineering and mathematics. Students take honors and Advanced Placement courses during their first two years of school, and matriculate as full college students in the 11th grade, studying with North Carolina A&T faculty in college classrooms. The credits they earn are applicable toward degrees at N.C. A&T, and most are transferable if they choose a different university. The Early College celebrated its fifth anniversary this year. After completing their studies last spring, eight of its first graduates enrolled this fall at N.C. A&T, where they are part of the nation's top historically black university in STEM education. N.C. A&T graduated 650 students in STEM disciplines in 2016–17, significantly exceeding its strategic plan goal for 2020, three years ahead of schedule.

Hunger Initiative at Spelman College

Spelman College aims to reduce food insecurity on campus with plans

to provide thousands of meals to students living off campus.

In a letter to the Spelman community released November 9, President Mary Schmidt Campbell, Ph.D. said, “through the end of 2017, Spelman and Aramark are providing 2,000 meals and up to 7,000 meals during the second semester to current Spelman students who live off campus and who have a need for a meal.”

The ongoing initiative is the result, in part, of an awareness-raising hunger strike launched in early November by National Action Network Youth Director and Spelman student Mary-Pat Hector. The strike ended after six days, with all of the students who participated remaining in good health. Administrators, students and the College’s food vendor Aramark have implemented a plan that is expected to supply up to 14,000 meals a year to students in need.

Moving forward, Spelman is employing an intensive case management approach by collecting data that will help survey the depth of the problem. Long-term, the goal is to be prepared to identify what steps must be taken to eventually end food insecurity in the Atlanta University Center community.

For more information, visit Spelman.edu.

HBCU President’s Corner

A note submitted by Dr. Aminta Hawkins Breaux, President of Bowie State University

Several aspects of the proposed tax changes in H.R. 1, the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, are of concern to the higher education community in general, and, in particular, to Historically Black Colleges and Universities. The charitable deduction changes under H.R. 1 double the standard deduction and eliminate the charitable deduction for many taxpayers. H.R. 1 would destabilize charitable giving to all nonprofit organizations, including Historically Black Colleges and Universities. Many of our institutions, which do not enjoy substantial endowments and long histories of philanthropic giving, could be harmed the most by shrinking donations from alumni and other donors. As a new President of an HBCU, with a specific goal of raising more private funds in order

to increase our endowment and provide more scholarships for our students, I am particularly concerned about the impact of H.R. 1 on charitable giving.

The Charitable Giving Coalition, which is comprised of leading nonprofits, estimates that approximately 30 million taxpayers who itemized their taxes will no longer have the same incentive to do so, resulting in a loss of approximately \$13.1 billion in charitable giving in subsequent years. Advocates for higher education propose to reduce the impact by suggesting a universal charitable deduction as part of the tax reform bill. It would help offset the anticipated losses and generate incentives for others to give by providing a deduction to all taxpayers. Historically Black Colleges and Universities must remain engaged and vigilant in the policy discussions that will ultimately affect the long-term viability of our institutions. The elimination of the charitable giving deduction could have a crippling effect on college affordability and access to higher education needed by our students.

An Update from the Hill

H.R. 799, Shift Back to Society Act

Rep. French Hill (AR-4) introduced a bill that would establish a pilot program that would award grants to HBCUs in order to provide educational opportunities to incarcerated individuals immediately before their re-entry back into society.

Clyburn/Adams Amendment to Interior Appropriations

Reps. Jim Clyburn (SC-2) and Alma Adams (NC-12) introduced and passed an amendment to the Interior and Environment Appropriations bill for FY18 that allocates funding for the HBCU Historic Preservation Program. The amendment adds \$2 million to the program, authorizing \$5 million in total.

Scott/Brown Amendment to Senate National Defense Authorization Act

Sens. Tim Scott (R-SC) and Sherrod Brown (D-OH) introduced and passed an amendment to the National Defense Authorization Act for FY18 that allocates robust funding for the Department of Defense's

HBCU/MI Research Program, adding \$12 million and matching the \$40 million authorized in the House NDAA in July.

The Conference Report reconciling the two bills also included a \$40 million line item for the HBCU/MSI Research Program, and was approved by both chambers of Congress this month. It now awaits a signature from the President.

H.R. 3709, America’s College Promise Act of 2017

Rep. Bobby Scott (VA-3) introduced legislation as part of the House Democrats’ *Aim Higher* Initiative that would make two years of community college free and provide an affordable pathway for low-income individuals to attend HBCUs and other MSIs.

Letter to Energy Secretary Rick Perry Requesting Funding for the Historically Black Colleges and Universities Clean Energy Coalition

Rep. Alma Adams wrote a letter to Department of Energy Secretary Rick Perry asking for up to \$25 million to invest in the Historically Black Colleges and Universities Clean Energy Coalition (HBCU-CEC).

HBCU Roundtable during National HBCU Week

Rep. Alma Adams hosted a roundtable with House Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi, Congressman Bobby Scott, and HBCU presidents and chancellors to announce the House Democrats’ HBCU legislative priorities and hear from HBCU leaders about their top legislative concerns.

CBC Special Order Hour and Resolution Honoring Nine HBCUs Celebrating their Sesquicentennial

Rep. Alma Adams led a special order hour, hosted by the Congressional Black Caucus, to honor the nine HBCUs celebrating 150 years of academic excellence. During National HBCU Week, Rep. Adams introduced a resolution that recognized these nine HBCUs including Alabama State, Barber Scotia, Fayetteville State, Howard, Johnson C. Smith, Morehouse, Morgan State, St. Augustine’s, and Talladega.

Bipartisan HBCU Caucus co-chairs Invite White House HBCU

Initiative Director to Capitol Hill

Rep. Alma Adams and Rep. Bradley Byrne, co-chairs of the Bipartisan Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) Caucus, sent a letter extending an invitation to Johnathan Holifield, the newly appointed Executive Director of the White House HBCU Initiative, to meet with the Bipartisan HBCU Caucus on Capitol Hill.

Jackson Lee Wins Funds for HBCUs Impacted by Hurricane Harvey

Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee (TX-18) continues to advocate for additional recovery funds for businesses and institutions impacted by Hurricane Harvey. To date, Texas Southern University, located in Rep. Jackson Lee's Houston district, has received \$500,000 to assist with repairs sustained from the storm.

Morehouse College Graduates Introduce Resolution Celebrating Sesquicentennial

Reps. John Lewis, Sanford Bishop, and Cedric Richmond introduced H. Res. 641 *Recognizing the 150th Anniversary of Morehouse College and its contributions to the United States and the world.*

Rep. Adams leads a letter to Education and Workforce Chairwoman Virginia Foxx urging protections for HBCUs and minority serving institutions (MSI) in the PROSPER Act

Rep. Adams, a member of the Education and Workforce Committee, sent a letter to Committee Chairwoman Foxx urging changes to the Promoting Real Opportunity, Success and Prosperity through Education Reform (PROSPER) Act to protect HBCU and MSIs.

Rep. Adams was awarded an honorary degree from North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University

On Saturday, December 9, Rep. Adams was awarded an honorary Doctor of Humanities degree from her alma mater, North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University, for her years of service in the NC State House and in the U.S. House of Representatives. Rep. Adams is the founder and co-chair of the Bipartisan Congressional HBCU Caucus.

Rep. Adams is pictured with NC A&T Chancellor Harold L. Martin, Sr.

HBCU Opportunities

North Carolina HBCU Internship Program

The purpose of this initiative is to connect students matriculating at North Carolina's Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) with Tarheel state's largest companies. Students will gain work experience that will increase their competitiveness in the job market, while our businesses gain access and exposure to an untapped, diverse talent pool. Through this initiative we hope to increase the capacity of North Carolina's HBCUs to connect their graduates to the private sector thus retaining this talent in North Carolina.

Please contact your career services office for the student application. Anticipated program start date is May, 2018. Start dates may vary depending upon the employer.

<https://www.northcarolina.edu/Government-Relations/North-Carolina-HBCU-Internship-Program>

The State of North Carolina Internship Program offers students real-world experience in a wide range of state government workplaces. Some of the program's past internships have included:

- Introducing visitors to reptiles at the Museum of Natural Sciences
- Working in the Office of the Governor
- Publicizing the State Fair
- Clerking at the NC Court of Appeals
- Assisting NC companies to compete in international markets

To be eligible, you must be a permanent North Carolina resident attending a college, university, law school, technical institute, or community college.

For more information on the State of North Carolina Internship

Program, please contact Candace Dudley at 919–807–4407.

The 2018 Program Booklet became available November 1, 2017.

HBCU in Los Angeles Internship Program

The Entertainment Industry College Outreach Program (EICOP) is proud to announce the HBCU in LA Internship Program application is now open!! This highly competitive program will be open to both undergraduate and graduate students with an interest to pursue a career in the entertainment, media and communication industry. Selected Scholars will participate in an 8–10 week paid internship in Los Angeles, Summer 2018! The program will cover housing expenses and will offer limited travel stipends based on individual financial needs.

Scholars will have the opportunity to:

- Participate in a comprehensive immersion internship experience in Los Angeles, California during summer of 2018*
- Participate in a series of professional development activities to help leverage a career in the media, entertainment and communication industry post-graduation*
- Become a part of our exclusive Student Member Network for on-going employment consideration with our industry partner organizations*
- Serve as Ambassadors for EICOP to build awareness for the HBCU in LA Internship Program*

8–10 week program paid in Los Angeles

Deadline Dec 17, 2017

<https://sites.ed.gov/whhbcu/category/funding/internship-scholarship/>

Bipartisan Congressional HBCU Caucus Internship

The Bipartisan HBCU Caucus offers a unique internship on Capitol Hill that allows students to intern in both a Democratic and Republican

office throughout an eight week summer program. The internship provides students with an opportunity to learn about working on Capitol Hill and bipartisanship, to meet powerful congressional leaders, and includes a stipend to offset living expenses in Washington, D.C. Stay tuned for more information.

Senate Democratic Diversity Initiative

The Senate Democratic Diversity Initiative is a component of the Leadership Office of Senate Democratic Leader Senator Chuck Schumer (D-NY), which assists Senate Democratic offices in building a diverse workforce. In 2007, the Initiative was created by then-Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV) to develop a Senate staff who reflect the diversity of our nation and are demographically representative of the constituents they serve. To contact the Diversity Initiative or submit a resume to the resume bank please email Diversity_Initiative@schumer.senate.gov. Learn more about the initiative by visiting <https://www.democrats.senate.gov/about-senate-dems/diversity-initiative>.

