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## Adams Announces Three More Companies Joining the HBCU Partnership Challenge

Alma Adams Press [sam.spencer@mail.house.gov]

**Sent:** Friday, August 28, 2020 11:08 AM

**To:** Steve Johnston



### Rep. Alma Adams Announces Three More Companies Joining the HBCU Partnership Challenge

**Washington, D.C.** – Today, **Congresswoman Alma Adams (NC-12)** announced three new companies joining the Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) Partnership Challenge. [The HBCU Partnership Challenge is an effort to promote greater engagement and support between private companies and HBCUs.](#)

“I am excited to announce that Vanguard, Fifth Third Bank, and AMC Networks are joining the Congressional Bipartisan HBCU Caucus’ HBCU Partnership Challenge”, **said Congresswoman Alma Adams (NC-12), founder and Co-Chair of the Congressional Bipartisan HBCU Caucus.** “Building relationships with these engines of diverse talent is absolutely imperative as we strive to create a more just and equitable society, and holds even more importance given the economic and public health burdens of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic on communities of color. I applaud these private partners on their outreach and look forward to working with them to create 21st century opportunity for generations of HBCU students and graduates to come.”

Companies joining the partnership challenge are excited for the opportunity.

“HBCUs attract into their degree programs many of our country’s smartest, most talented students,” **shared Crystal Hardie Langston, Vanguard’s Chief Diversity Officer.** “The impact of HBCUs on the U.S. workforce is significant, and we welcome and encourage these students to consider a career at Vanguard.”

**“Joining the HBCU Partnership Challenge demonstrates our dedication to HBCU students and institutions of higher education,” said Hosetta Coleman, senior vice president, University Relations at Fifth Third Bank.** “This collaboration will continue to help us build pathways of developing and recruiting the diverse students who will eventually become industry leaders and experts.”

**“HBCU’s play such an important role in fostering future leaders and innovators,” said Jen Caserta, Chief Transformation & People Officer at AMC Networks.** “To be one of the first in the media and entertainment industry to join this challenge is a special honor and an important undertaking that recognizes the role we play in advancing and protecting HBCUs and their students. We look forward to working with Congresswoman Alma Adams, Congressman Bradley Byrne, and our AMC Networks HBCU Alumni to strengthen our relationships and empower students.”

The Congressional Bipartisan HBCU Caucus’ Partnership Challenge encourages participating organizations to make greater investments in HBCUs. The new partners will be officially announced during the Caucus’s “HBCU Month” in September. HBCU Month will include a conversation with HBCU leaders and private sector partners that have made substantial investments in HBCUs over the past year during the Fourth Annual HBCU Braintrust at the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation’s Annual Legislative Conference; as well as the Third Annual Diversity in Tech Summit, which will include conversations about how industry and HBCUs can partner to keep diverse pipelines of talent strong during the COVID-19 pandemic. For more information, please contact Sam Spencer ([Sam.Spencer@mail.house.gov](mailto:Sam.Spencer@mail.house.gov)).

**Congresswoman Alma Adams** represents North Carolina’s 12<sup>th</sup> Congressional District (Charlotte) and serves as Vice Chair of the House Committee on Agriculture. Additionally, she serves on the House Financial Services Committee and the House Education & Labor Committee, where she serves as Chair of the Workforce Protections Subcommittee. In 2015, she founded the first bipartisan Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) Caucus in Congress.

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