

Adams Announces Four Companies Joining the HBCU Partnership Challenge



From Alma Adams Press <sam.spencer@mail.house.gov>
To <sjohnston@tuesdayforumcharlotte.org>
Reply-To <sam.spencer@mail.house.gov>
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Rep. Alma Adams Announces Four More Companies Joining the HBCU Partnership Challenge

As of today, 51 companies have taken the challenge

Washington, D.C. – Today, **Congresswoman Alma Adams (NC-12)** announced four 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 Mastercard, H&R Block, Digital Payments and BBVA 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.** “This announcement marks an important milestone as the Partnership Challenge now numbers more than 50 private partners. I applaud these private partners on taking the pledge to lean in and create 21st century opportunity for the institutions and students who need our help the most.”

Companies joining the partnership challenge are excited for the opportunity:

“Mastercard is home to some of the smartest, kindest and most innovative people on the planet—from all races, backgrounds and ethnicities. We want, and need, to ensure we remain a place where all can thrive,” **said Michael Fraccaro, chief people officer,**

Mastercard. “That’s why we’re enhancing our end-to-end talent program to ensure we’re recruiting, developing and retaining an inclusive workforce, including Black employees, at every level. Bolstering our employee recruitment through new and expanded partnerships with HBCUs is an important part of that, and why we’re pleased to join the HBCU Partnership Challenge.”

“We are proud to announce our support of the HBCU Partnership Challenge, as we pride ourselves on inclusiveness and embrace the diversity of our team members globally,” **said Andrea Carter, Senior Executive Vice President and Chief Human Resource Officer, Global Payments.** “As a graduate of an HBCU myself, I understand how critical these colleges and universities are to the diverse workforce of our nation, and our commitment to the HBCU Partnership is another step toward creating an inclusive workplace environment.”

“At H&R Block, our mission is to create an environment of belonging where our 80,000 associates feel safe, supported and valued,” **said H&R Block chief people officer Tiffany Monroe.** The same is true as we recruit and invest in talent—to create belonging through inclusivity, understanding and equity. Today’s announcement of our support of the HBCU Partnership Challenge underscores our belief and our commitment.”

“BBVA is committed to living our purpose of bringing the age of opportunity to everyone, and that includes our hiring practices as we continue our efforts in creating a more inclusive and diverse workforce,” **said BBVA USA Chief Talent & Culture Executive Rosilyn Houston.** “Joining the HBCU Partnership Challenge is part of our commitment to an advanced Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) strategy that includes an intentional effort to tap into the HBCU top talent pool of social, cultural and ethnically diverse leaders to advance racial equity and representation at all levels in our organization.”

The Congressional Bipartisan HBCU Caucus’ Partnership Challenge encourages participating organizations to make greater investments in HBCUs. For more information, please contact Sam Spencer (Sam.Spencer@mail.house.gov).

Congresswoman Alma Adams represents North Carolina’s 12th 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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Sam Spencer
Communications Director
Congresswoman Alma S. Adams, NC-12
2436 Rayburn House Office Building Washington, DC 20515
Phone: 202-225-1510 Fax: 202-225-1512

Connect with us



Office of Congresswoman Alma Adams | 801 E. Morehead St, Suite 150, Charlotte, NC 28202
Phone: 704-344-9950

[Unsubscribe sjohnston@tuesdayforumcharlotte.org](mailto:sjohnston@tuesdayforumcharlotte.org)

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Sent by sam.spencer@mail.house.gov