

Adams Applauds Inclusion of JCSU in Equity CLT Plan



From Spencer, Sam <Sam.Spencer@mail.house.gov>
To Mayfield, Deja <Deja.Mayfield@mail.house.gov>
Cc Caldwell, Anissa <Anissa.Caldwell@mail.house.gov>
Date 2021-11-02 14:08

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CHARLOTTE – **Congresswoman Alma Adams (NC-12)** applauded the inclusion of **Johnson C. Smith University**, Charlotte’s only Historically Black College or University (HBCU), in **Charlotte Mayor Vi Lyles’** \$250 million [Racial Equity Initiative](#).

“For over 150 years, Johnson C. Smith University has been an engine of equity for the Charlotte region,” **said Congresswoman Alma Adams, founder and co-Chair of the Congressional Bipartisan HBCU Caucus**. “Today’s gifts from the Duke Endowment, Bank of America, and many other partners will ensure JCSU continues its legacy of producing compassionate and forward-thinking leaders. These are exactly the kind of partnerships we are working to replicate with the **IGNITE HBCU Excellence Act**. Thank you to Mayor Lyles and all of the public and private donors who are leading this equity effort while empowering a new generation of Smithites to succeed in the workforce and beyond.”

[Per a press release](#), “The newly announced Mayor’s Racial Equity Initiative looks to invest \$250 million to address inequities and remove barriers to opportunity through four key workstreams: bridging the digital divide and establishing a Center for Digital Equity; investing in Charlotte’s six “Corridors of Opportunity” neighborhoods; transforming JCSU into a top-tier, career-focused HBCU; and ensuring organizations commit to racial equity through advancing more Black and Brown leaders within their individual corporations. A lead private-sector gift of \$40 million from The Duke Endowment will be directed to the Johnson C. Smith University workstream.”

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