HISTORICALLY BLACK COLLEGES & UNIVERSITIES
THE CURRENT CLIMATE FOR ENROLLMENT AND ADVOCACY

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AGENDA

- What is an HBCU?
- Where are they? How many?
- HBCUs in Pennsylvania
- Why are HBCUs Important?
- Current Enrollment Trends
- Our Study
WHAT IS AN HBCU?

- A historically black college and university is defined as “… any historically black college or university that was established before 1964, whose principal mission was, and is, the education of African Americans.”

WHAT IF I AM NOT BLACK OR AFRICAN AMERICAN?

- HBCUs currently educate 23% of non-Black students of all races, ethnicities, and cultures from around the world (NCES, 2016).
## Diversity in HBCUs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School Name (State)</th>
<th>Black</th>
<th>Asian</th>
<th>Hispanic</th>
<th>White</th>
<th>American Indian</th>
<th>International</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bluefield State College (WV)</td>
<td>10.2%</td>
<td>0.2%</td>
<td>1.2%</td>
<td>85.1%</td>
<td>0.1%</td>
<td>2.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West Virginia State University</td>
<td>11.7%</td>
<td>0.4%</td>
<td>0.5%</td>
<td>60.8%</td>
<td>0.5%</td>
<td>0.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kentucky State University</td>
<td>61.8%</td>
<td>0.6%</td>
<td>1.3%</td>
<td>19.8%</td>
<td>0.2%</td>
<td>0.3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
WHY HBCUS

- HBCUs provide family-like and racially affirming environments
- HBCU students have close and meaningful interactions with faculty, staff, and administrators.
- HBCUs offer education at a much lower cost with low-income, first-generation students in mind.
- Black students can learn, grow, and become whatever they wish without the strain of racial prejudice.
As of 2018, there are 101 accredited public and private HBCUs located in 19 states, the District of Columbia and the U.S. Virgin Islands.
HBCUS IN PENNSYLVANIA

- Cheyney University of Pennsylvania, 1837
- Lincoln University, 1854

Award 6% of all bachelor’s degrees earned by Black students in PA

WHY ARE HBCUS IMPORTANT?

HBCUs PUNCHING ABOVE THEIR WEIGHT

Across the 21 states and territories where HBCUs are located, in 2016 they...

- Comprised 9% of four-year institutions
- Enrolled 24% of all black undergrads pursuing a bachelor's degree
- Awarded 26% of all black bachelor's degrees
- Awarded 32% of STEM bachelor's degrees earned by black students

*2016 data
WHY ARE HBCUS IMPORTANT?

Degrees conferred by HBCUs in academic year 2016–17

- 49,500 degrees total
- 5,500 Associate’s degrees
- 33,500 Bachelor’s degrees
- 8,000 Master’s degrees
- 2,500 Doctor’s degrees

#EdStats Find out more at https://nces.ed.gov/fastfacts/display.asp?id=667.
Since 2016, a small number of HBCUs have experienced record increases in applications and enrollments.

Collectively, HBCUs enrolled more than 298,000 students at the start of the 2017-18 academic year, marking the first enrollment increase for the sector since 2011.¹
CURRENT ENROLLMENT TRENDS

Anecdotal information credits racial tensions, the political climate under the Trump administration, and what HBCU President Walter M. Kimbrough calls the “Missouri Effect,” the recent surge in racial-based harassment of Black students at predominantly White institutions (PWIs) for the enrollment resurgence.
In the 10 days following the election of Trump, 140 hate incidents were reported at predominately White campuses across the country.

According to the U.S. Department of Education, campus hate crime rose 25 percent for a reported total of 1,250 crimes in 2016.

The Anti-Defamation League’s Center on Extremism also reported 346 incidents of White supremacist propaganda campaigns that targeted college campuses, following the election.
OUR STUDY

Response to Racism: How HBCU enrollment has been impacted by an uprising of racialized incidents.

- We interviewed 80 current Black undergraduate students from Clark Atlanta University, Grambling State University, Howard University, and Morgan State University (20 students per school) who enrolled between 2016-2018.
- In 2016, Howard University saw a 32% increase in new enrollment applicants and Clark Atlanta saw a 109% increase.
- In 2017, Morgan saw a 47% increase and Grambling saw a 70% increase.
Preliminary analysis found that PT, BLM and ME influenced college bound Black American students to consider applying and later attending an HBCU between 2016-2018.

Participants raised concerns about safety on campus and in the surrounding community at PWIs.

Participants discussed the media coverage of inclusion/exclusion based on identity (race, gender, religious affiliation and sexual identity) on both PWI and HBCU campuses.

Participants explained that the lack of safe spaces in high school and experiences of blatant racism and microaggressions from teachers and non-Black peers in high school motivated them to apply to HBCUs.
During and after the election, I was getting in arguments with White students all the time. I mean, it started senior year/middle of junior year. It was surprising because I didn’t know how people who I thought were my friends felt about certain topics. I started to feel like I was in danger, like I was way more in danger than I actually thought… I really got to see people behind what they try to present as, especially some people who claim themselves as democrats or liberals and things like that. I just felt like they don't have my back. It was kind of like the same view I had with Stanford and Dallas Baptist. They don't want me. They could definitely do without me; they probably don't want me there at all. That's exactly why I had to go to a HBCU.