

Historically Black Colleges and Universities and Africa Relations:
Historical and Contemporary HBCU-Africa Relations

Independent Study Project
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Introduction: HBCUs, Africa and Academic Diplomacy

The following work is a preliminary report of independent research conducted during the fall 2021 semester regarding academic diplomacy, Pan-Africanism, and relations among HBCUs and African states. This research was completed due to the author's interest in establishing greater connections among HBCUs and African universities, and to advocate for and advance institutional partnerships and relations among students, alumni, and U.S. and Africa-based organizations. During the spring 2022 semester, I plan to continue this research focusing on connections among HBCUs and African universities yet broadening the scope to include the African diaspora and other international institutions that serve African descendants in Caribbean and European states.

In addition to conducting independent study research during fall 2021, I also hosted two international events with the Center for African Studies (CfAS) and partner organizations, AfroCrowd, an international nonprofit focused on serving the diaspora, and Strong Men Overcoming Obstacles Through Hard-work, a mentoring and community service organization for African American males at HBCUs and Temple University. The two events (see Appendix A)¹ included participants from Ghana, Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda, and South Africa, as well as HBCUs students, alumni, and faculty members.

While building the research database and searching for historical connections, I managed to establish connections at two colleges in African states, the University of Dar es Salaam in Tanzania and the University of Johannesburg in South Africa. The connection in Tanzania is interested in partnering to establish an exchange program between the University of Dar es Salaam and HBCUs, and the connection in South Africa helped me develop a useful framework for investigating the topic of academic diplomacy and relations among HBCUs and African universities.

At the conclusion of this research project, I aim to produce materials that are useful to those interested in establishing programs and partnerships among HBCUs and African based organizations including universities, businesses, governments, nonprofits and multinational organizations. Furthermore, I am hopeful research products can also be beneficial to students, international community members, and proponents of education and literacy. At a minimum, this research will assist with the following:

- The establishment of an African/Black History international database for HBCUs and African universities
- Promoting African studies programs and history among diaspora students and youth

¹ December 2021 Event for HBCU Students and Africa-based Tech Experts.
<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Meetup/AfroCROWD/IndabaDiaspora/HBCU>

- The establishment of partnerships to provide training, technical assistance, research support, exchange programs, study abroad opportunities, and African and world language programs

HBCUs and Their Overlooked Stakeholders

While some Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) have benefited from attention brought by social injustice, it is important to recall the needs of HBCUs that existed before the current wave of private and corporate social activism. Although contributions from alumni, foundations, philanthropists and corporations are incredible and necessary, the public should recognize the often forgotten and overlooked HBCU stakeholders which influence the capacity of their programs – U.S. state and federal governments.

With histories as land-grant institutions responsible for educating formerly enslaved people, the HBCU network of stakeholders is comprised of students, alumni, parents, administrators and faculty, staff, neighboring communities, financial supporters and advocates. Yet, U.S. state and federal government administrators are also significant stakeholders of HBCUs due to their influence over the financing, funding regulations and budgetary appropriations Black colleges receive.

HBCU Underdevelopment

Although 50% of Black colleges and universities² are public, state-funded institutions, and 50% are privately funded institutions³, both public and private schools have been historically underfunded⁴ and denied funding by both state and federal governments. HBCUs in Alabama, Maryland, Mississippi and South Carolina recently issued lawsuits contesting state funding⁵, while the federal government is known⁶ to have denied Black colleges funding available to Predominantly White Institutions (PWIs) for decades.

² What is an HBCU? White House Initiative on Advancing Educational Equity, Excellence, and Economic Opportunity through Historically Black Colleges and Universities. U.S. Department of Education. 2021. <https://sites.ed.gov/whhbcu/one-hundred-and-five-historically-black-colleges-and-universities/>

³ Public and Private Investments and Divestments in Historically Black Colleges and Universities. Issue Brief. American Council on Education. January 2019.

⁴ Douglas-Gabriel, D. ‘We’re still behind’: Public HBCUs see record investments, but still contend with legacy of state-sponsored discrimination. The Washington Post. July 30, 2021. <https://www.washingtonpost.com/education/2021/07/30/hbcu-donations-money-degrees-scholarships/>

⁵ Douglas-Gabriel, D. “HBCU advocates urge Congress to deliver on Biden’s promises”. The Washington Post. September 10, 2021. <https://www.washingtonpost.com/education/2021/09/10/hbcu-reconciliation-fight/>

⁶ Douglas-Gabriel, D. ‘We’re still behind’: Public HBCUs see record investments, but still contend with legacy of state-sponsored discrimination. The Washington Post. July 30, 2021. <https://www.washingtonpost.com/education/2021/07/30/hbcu-donations-money-degrees-scholarships/>

The underfunding of HBCUs – which are institutions that primarily serve people of African descent – is comparable to the underdevelopment of predominantly Black communities in the U.S., as well as the underfunding of public schools in urban and rural areas that primarily serve Black people. Furthermore, the unfortunate trend of underdevelopment in public policy even extends to African and Caribbean nations, which also suffer from underfunding and a lack of equitable resources. U.S. state governments and the federal government are integral stakeholders that inevitably determine the economic investment, monetary appropriation, and fiscal support HBCUs, Black communities and schools, and African and Caribbean nations receive via public policy.

While it is noteworthy that HBCUs have a larger percentage of continental African faculty members than other U.S. higher education institutions, most of the administrators and faculty members at HBCUs were white until the middle to late 1950s.⁷

Federal Funding & Competitive Grant Status

When the Biden-Harris Administration announced the re-establishment of the White House Initiative on Advancing Educational Equity, Excellence, and Economic Opportunity through HBCUs⁸ in September 2021, many were optimistic that HBCUs would receive exclusive support from lawmakers. Merely weeks later⁹, the Build Back Better Act¹⁰ received alterations affecting HBCUs, which are now slated to receive \$4.82 billion, with access to another \$47.5 billion¹¹ available to HBCUs, Tribal Colleges and Universities (TCUs) and minority serving institutions (MSIs).

The October 2021 iteration of the bill¹², which was drafted by the House Education Committee, was supposedly reduced due to disagreement among Democratic legislators. No matter

⁷ Challenor, Herschelle S. “African Studies at Historically Black Colleges and Universities.” *African Issues*, vol. 30, no. 2, Cambridge University Press, 2002, pp. 24–29, <https://doi.org/10.2307/1535085>.

⁸ Executive Order on White House Initiative on Advancing Educational Equity, Excellence, and Economic Opportunity through Historically Black Colleges and Universities. The White House. September 3, 2021 <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/2021/09/03/executive-order-on-white-house-initiative-on-advancing-educational-equity-excellence-and-economic-opportunity-through-historically-black-colleges-and-universities/>

⁹ Messmer, A. HBCU Funding Falls From \$45 Billion to \$2 Billion Under Latest Biden Spending Plan. *Newsweek*. October 5, 2021. <https://www.newsweek.com/hbcu-funding-falls-45-billion-2-billion-under-latest-biden-spending-plan-1635870>

¹⁰ "H.R.5376 - 117th Congress (2021-2022): Build Back Better Act." *Congress.gov*, Library of Congress, 19 November 2021, <https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/house-bill/5376>.

¹¹ Fact Sheet: The Biden-Harris Administration’s Historic Investments and Support for Historically Black Colleges and Universities. The White House. October 9, 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/10/09/fact-sheet-the-biden-harris-administrations-historic-investments-and-support-for-historically-black-colleges-and-universities/>

¹² "S.96 - 117th Congress (2021-2022): Reopen and Rebuild America’s Schools Act of 2021." *Congress.gov*, Library of Congress, 28 January 2021, <https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/senate-bill/96>.

which party publicly “shoulders blame”, the challenges HBCUs endure are bipartisan and nonpartisan concerns, like every human rights issue. Funding will ultimately be awarded on a competitive basis and HBCUs will compete against MSIs with more resources, although schools that engage in high levels of research will be ineligible.

The Department of Education categorizes¹³ more than 800 colleges and universities as “minority-serving” due to their history, student composition and capacity. To distinguish HBCUs from other institutions that serve minorities but also have dedicated grant writers, Congressional leaders are trying to allow HBCUs to bid for funding among themselves. This approach has drawn criticism from HBCU leaders¹⁴ and within Congress¹⁵, as members believe a competitive grant structure is an unnecessary obstacle for HBCUs.

Fluctuating Endowments, Cumulative Expenses

HBCU endowments are disproportionate as the approximate aggregate endowment of HBCUs in FY-2019 was \$4 billion¹⁶, compared with the \$626 billion aggregate endowment of PWIs. Considering the challenges exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, the public must recognize the disparities among HBCUs as private, public, smaller and larger institutions have varying endowments. The five wealthiest private Black colleges had endowments between \$73,000 and \$200,000 per student in 2019¹⁷, while the largest endowment for a public Black college was less than \$25,000 per student.

The \$1.06 billion for HBCU-specific funding in the FY-2022 budget request¹⁸ via the latest version of the “Rebuild America’s Schools Grant Program”¹⁹, is comparable to the endowment of a

¹³ United States Department of Education Lists of Postsecondary Institutions Enrolling Populations with Significant Percentages of Undergraduate Minority Students. U.S. Department of Education. Accessed January 2022.

<https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/edlite-minorityinst.html>

¹⁴ Messmer, A. HBCU Funding Falls From \$45 Billion to \$2 Billion Under Latest Biden Spending Plan. Newsweek. October 5, 2021. <https://www.newsweek.com/hbcu-funding-falls-45-billion-2-billion-under-latest-biden-spending-plan-1635870>

¹⁵ Douglas-Gabriel, D. “HBCU advocates urge Congress to deliver on Biden’s promises”. The Washington Post. September 10, 2021. <https://www.washingtonpost.com/education/2021/09/10/hbcu-reconciliation-fight/>

¹⁶ Chapman, L. and Lorin, J. “A \$250 Million Fund Steers HBCU Endowments Into Venture Capital”. Bloomberg Businessweek. May, 2021. <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2021-05-27/advancement-initiative-wants-to-steer-hbcu-endowments-into-venture-capital>

¹⁷ Amy, J. and Fenn, L. “While Howard University rides a wave of acclaim, some Black colleges are struggling”. Chicago Sun Times. July 15, 2021. <https://chicago.suntimes.com/education/2021/7/14/22577327/hbcus-howard-university-black-colleges-struggling>

¹⁸ Fact Sheet: The Biden-Harris Administration’s Historic Investments and Support for Historically Black Colleges and Universities. The White House. October 9, 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/10/09/fact-sheet-the-biden-harris-administrations-historic-investments-and-support-for-historically-black-colleges-and-universities/>

¹⁹ “S.96 - 117th Congress (2021-2022): Reopen and Rebuild America’s Schools Act of 2021.” Congress.gov, Library of Congress, 28 January 2021, <https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/senate-bill/96>.

single PWI, such as the University of Nebraska, which has a \$1.7 billion²⁰ endowment. With origins dating back to U.S. slavery and the antebellum era, some HBCUs have buildings older than 140 years, making maintenance expensive. The average HBCU has \$80 million in infrastructure maintenance costs, according to Dr. Tony Allen, head of the White House HBCU Advisory Board. Per a 2018 Government Accountability Office²¹ report, private HBCUs reported deferred maintenance backlogs of \$17 million, while public HBCUs reported \$67 million.

Historical HBCU-Africa Relations

Historically, HBCUs have produced many notable alumni and world leaders who have engaged Africa and its diaspora in meaningful ways. HBCUs also have a history of educating international students, such as the first leader of independent Ghana, Kwame Nkrumah, who attended Lincoln University (PA).²² From WEB DuBois' involvement with the African leaders and promotion of international Pan-Africanism, Booker T. Washington's Tuskegee Institute's support of international development and agricultural initiatives in African states, to Ralph Bunche's work at the Library of Congress and State Department, HBCUs have been involved in African affairs on several levels. Such engagement has often been facilitated by U.S. governmental departments or divisions and their influential leaders, who also have ties to HBCUs.

The complex histories of HBCUs are rooted in 19th century American segregation and racial tension as the institutions were developed by clergy members and philanthropists to educate formerly enslaved Africans, who would later be identified as "African American", a nomenclature that still remains contested in modern society. Most HBCUs were founded by religious (Christian) organizations including Baptist, Methodist (African Methodist Episcopal, Christian Methodist Episcopal, and United Methodist), Presbyterian, and Episcopal Church organizations.²³ During the time it was illegal to teach enslaved Africans how to read and write, so Black colleges and universities were not established in southern U.S. states until after the Civil War.²⁴ In 1837, the first Black institution for learning, the Institute for Colored Youth (now Cheyney University) was established in

²⁰ Kozlowski, R. "University of Nebraska posts 32.3% endowment return". Pensions and Investments. October 4, 2021. <https://www.pionline.com/endowments/university-nebraska-posts-323-endowment-return-0>

²¹ "Historically Black Colleges and Universities: Action Needed to Improve Participation in Education's HBCU Capital Financing Program" U.S. Government Accountability Office. June 26, 2018. <https://www.gao.gov/products/gao-18-455>

²² Challenor, Herschelle S. "African Studies at Historically Black Colleges and Universities." African Issues, vol. 30, no. 2, Cambridge University Press, 2002, pp. 24–29, <https://doi.org/10.2307/1535085>.

²³ Ibid.

²⁴ Ibid.

Pennsylvania. Lincoln University (PA) was founded in 1854, and Wilberforce College was later founded in 1856 in Ohio.

The legacy of HBCU involvement with foreign development assistance programs dates to the 19th century when 17 southern institutions became known as "Negro land-grant colleges", or land grant institutions.²⁵ Public funds for Black state institutions were authorized by the National Land Grant Colleges Act (First Morrill Act) passed by Congress on July 2, 1862.²⁶ Although the legislation was passed, the U.S. maintained dual systems of higher education for Black and white people. The Second Morrill Act of 1890 required states with dual education systems to provide land grant institutions for Black people as well as white people.²⁷ Alcorn State University, which became the first land grant college in 1872, Jackson State University, and Tougaloo College have all provided technical assistance with education, agricultural and science programs via partnerships with the U.S. government.²⁸

In 1899, Tuskegee University (formerly Tuskegee Institute) was invited to teach cotton cultivation in Togo, which was then under colonial rule of the German government. According to Dr. Suchet L. Louis, former associate provost and director of the Office of International Programs at Tuskegee University, the agricultural techniques were so useful that they were reproduced across West Africa.²⁹ The development of the Booker T. Washington Vocational Institute by Prairie View University in Liberia is an example of such an instance.³⁰

Government programs such as the Peace Corps, that have since expanded and been applied in other countries, have their origin at HBCUs. In "World View: HBCUs Have a Little-known History of Involvement in International Development", Joan Morgan unearths these often-overlooked origins.³¹ Highlighting an interview with Gloria Braxton, former director of Southern University's Center for International Development Programs in Baton Rouge, Morgan asserts, "According to Braxton, the decades old Peace Corps program was modeled after *Crossroads Africa*, a once-

²⁵ Challenor, Herschelle S. "African Studies at Historically Black Colleges and Universities." *African Issues*, vol. 30, no. 2, Cambridge University Press, 2002, pp. 24–29, <https://doi.org/10.2307/1535085>.

²⁶ Challenor, Herschelle S. "African Studies at Historically Black Colleges and Universities." *African Issues*, vol. 30, no. 2, Cambridge University Press, 2002, pp. 24–29, <https://doi.org/10.2307/1535085>.

²⁷ *Ibid.*

²⁸ *Ibid.*

²⁹ Morgan, Joan. "World View: HBCUs have a Little-Known History of Involvement in International Development." *Black Issues in Higher Education*, vol. 12, no. 1, Mar 09, 1995, pp. 24. ProQuest, <http://proxyhu.wrlc.org/login?url=https://www.proquest.com/magazines/world-view-hbcus-have-little-known-history/docview/194206411/se-2?accountid=11490>.

³⁰ *Ibid.*

³¹ *Ibid.*

flourishing HBCU exchange program founded by the Rev. James H. Robinson to promote international scholarship, foreign language proficiency, and cultural and racial understanding.”³²

This is very likely, as the first international program in Africa offered by Southern University began in the 1960s via assignments to teach language and cultural skills to over 100 Peace Corp volunteers in French-speaking Gabon and Guinea.³³ Southern University has also featured programs focused on agriculture, including a research project conducted with farmers in Cameroon and Sierra Leone, which was cited in the Congressional Record as one of the nation's most successful agricultural projects.³⁴

Like Washington, DuBois and Bunche also played significant roles in the development of historic ties between HBCUs in the U.S. and African states and organizations based on the African continent. In “African Studies at Historically Black Colleges and Universities”, Dr. Herschelle S. Challenor, a key figure in the 1950-60s U.S. Civil Rights movement, examines the complex histories of HBCUs and the origins of African studies programs at these institutions, highlighting DuBois’ influence on the early HBCU interest in Africa.³⁵ Similar to their role in establishing HBCUs, Christian church organizations were also prominent catalysts in the early interest in Africa as they sent hundreds of formerly enslaved African Baptists, Methodists, Episcopalians, and Presbyterians to the African continent to proselytize in the mid to late 1800s.³⁶ These missionaries often returned to give lectures or to conduct religious services at HBCUs, and were largely responsible for the large number of African students who traveled to the United States to study at HBCUs.³⁷

Outside of the role of Black missionaries, who worked under the auspices of white Christian organizations, the esteemed faculty members hired to provide instruction at HBCUs were a major driving force of HBCU interest in Africa. After WEB DuBois’ completion of his doctorate in history at Harvard University, his efforts and tenures at Wilberforce College and Atlanta University led to significant engagement with the African continent. DuBois studies of Negro city life were published by the U.S. Bureau of Labor, and his contrast with Washington, who focused on training and

³² Ibid.

³³ Morgan, Joan. "World View: HBCUs have a Little-Known History of Involvement in International Development." *Black Issues in Higher Education*, vol. 12, no. 1, Mar 09, 1995, pp. 24. ProQuest, <http://proxyhu.wrlc.org/login?url=https://www.proquest.com/magazines/world-view-hbcus-have-little-known-history/docview/194206411/se-2?accountid=11490>.

³⁴ Ibid.

³⁵ Challenor, Herschelle S. “African Studies at Historically Black Colleges and Universities.” *African Issues*, vol. 30, no. 2, Cambridge University Press, 2002, pp. 24–29, <https://doi.org/10.2307/1535085>.

³⁶ Challenor, Herschelle S. “African Studies at Historically Black Colleges and Universities.” *African Issues*, vol. 30, no. 2, Cambridge University Press, 2002, pp. 24–29, <https://doi.org/10.2307/1535085>.

³⁷ Ibid.

organizing Black rural farmers, led to significant contributions to the HBCU community.³⁸ During DuBois' tenure at the institution, Atlanta University was the only institution in the world which systematically studied Black people in America (the Negro), the only postsecondary education institution in the South, as well as the only Black institution engaged in scientific sociological research.³⁹

Unsurprisingly, after attending the first Pan-African Conference of 1900 in London, organized by Henry Sylvester Williams of Trinidad, DuBois efforts pivoted towards internationalism centered around Africa and its diaspora.⁴⁰ He resigned from Atlanta University and became the editor of *The Crisis*, the magazine of the National Association of the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) in New York. DuBois then played an integral role in organizing the first four Pan-African Congresses (1919, 1921, 1923, and 1927), and contributed to the fifth Congress of 1945 – which was the first conference that was not led by DuBois, an African American, and instead spearheaded by Kwame Nkrumah of Ghana, Jomo Kenyatta of Kenya, and George Padmore of Trinidad – before returning to Atlanta University as chair of the sociology department from 1932-1944.⁴¹ Challenor notes that “Africa attracted more scholarly attention during and immediately after World War II, following DuBois' leadership of Pan-African conferences, the contact of U.S soldiers with Africa and African soldiers during the war, and the beginning of the decolonization movement.”⁴²

Howard University and its faculty have also played a significant role in developing relations and increasing engagement with the African continent. Notably, Howard became the first HBCU with an African studies program in 1953, five years after anthropologist Melville Herskovits established the first African studies program in the U.S. at Northwestern University. Howard began offering its doctorate program in 1969 and remains the only institution in the U.S with an African Studies department with such a program and its own faculty. The development of African studies at Howard began in the early 20th century as Kelly Miller, former dean of the College of Arts and Sciences and professor of sociology at Howard, and Alain Locke, professor of philosophy, led faculty who advocated for Negro studies.⁴³ Some materials on Negro history were added to Howard University's Teachers College curriculum, but they did not formally become part of the academic program of the College of Arts and Sciences until 1919, when Carter G. Woodson joined Howard's faculty. Howard

³⁸ Ibid.

³⁹ Challenor, Herschelle S. “African Studies at Historically Black Colleges and Universities.” *African Issues*, vol. 30, no. 2, Cambridge University Press, 2002, pp. 24–29, <https://doi.org/10.2307/1535085>.

⁴⁰ Challenor, Herschelle S. “African Studies at Historically Black Colleges and Universities.” *African Issues*, vol. 30, no. 2, Cambridge University Press, 2002, pp. 24–29, <https://doi.org/10.2307/1535085>.

⁴¹ Ibid.

⁴² Ibid.

⁴³ Ibid.

professors Charles H. Wesley (1919) taught about European imperialism in Africa and William Leo Hansberry (1920) taught about ancient civilizations in Africa, respectively.

Each of the aforementioned figures played key roles, however Ralph Bunche's efforts occurred during the pre- and post- World War II periods, as he was appointed to develop the political science department at Howard University in 1928. Bunche worked as a faculty member until 1933 yet retained his Howard position until 1950. During this time, he completed his dissertation on a comparative study of the French administration of Togo and Dahomey in 1934 after completing a year of field research in West Africa. He organized "The Crisis of Modern Imperialism in Africa and the Far East" in 1936, and in 1941 Bunche began working at the Library of Congress in the Office of Strategic Services (OSS), later becoming the director of the African division of the OSS' research branch. Before becoming the first African American desk officer at the Department of State in 1944, Bunche produced detailed studies of former British colonies such as Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Southwest Africa, Zanzibar, Nyasaland, Rhodesia, South Africa, Lesotho, Botswana, and Swaziland.⁴⁴ Bunche was reportedly called "the foremost authority in America on African problems" by his supervisor at the OSS⁴⁵, and it is no doubt that his contributions to U.S. foreign policy and foreign relations improved HBCUs engagement with the African continent.⁴⁶

HBCU-Africa Relations Over the Years

In the post-World War II era, much engagement between HBCUs and African states has continued to be facilitated by government agencies working on the African continent in various capacities. The role HBCUs in developing the framework for the Peace Corps in the 1960s is an example, as well as the duplication of Booker T. Washington's agricultural techniques across West Africa. In 1982, the Gray Amendment, sponsored by former Democratic Rep. William Gray of Pennsylvania, targeted HBCUs to receive more of funds from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).⁴⁷ The amendment required USAID to allocate 10 percent of all development assistance funds to contracts awarded to HBCUs.⁴⁸

⁴⁴ Challenor, Herschelle S. "African Studies at Historically Black Colleges and Universities." *African Issues*, vol. 30, no. 2, Cambridge University Press, 2002, pp. 24–29, <https://doi.org/10.2307/1535085>.

⁴⁵ Challenor, Herschelle S. "African Studies at Historically Black Colleges and Universities." *African Issues*, vol. 30, no. 2, Cambridge University Press, 2002, pp. 24–29, <https://doi.org/10.2307/1535085>.

⁴⁶ *Ibid.*

⁴⁷ Morgan, Joan. "World View: HBCUs have a Little-Known History of Involvement in International Development." *Black Issues in Higher Education*, vol. 12, no. 1, Mar 09, 1995, pp. 24. ProQuest, <http://proxyhu.wrlc.org/login?url=https://www.proquest.com/magazines/world-view-hbcus-have-little-known-history/docview/194206411/se-2?accountid=11490>.

⁴⁸ *Ibid.*

More recently, with adjustments to the international economic order and industrial complexes, public and private foundations have also become funders and facilitators of HBCU-Africa engagement. As a result, some HBCUs are now somewhat less reliant on total government funding. In the early 1990s, Tuskegee received some of its funds for international programs from funders such as the Kellogg Foundation and McKnight Foundation, and organizations like Africare.⁴⁹

In 1993, Prairie View, Tuskegee, Clark Atlanta University, North Carolina A&T State University, Grambling State University, Texas Southern University, North Carolina Central University, Virginia State University, Lincoln University and Hampton University established a consortium in collaboration with the University of Michigan School of Business Administration to integrate Africa into international business study to produce a generation of experts to cultivate emerging African markets. Established in August 1992, the consortium relied on faculty and student exchanges and the development of new curriculum.⁵⁰

During this period, Lincoln University conducted a summer program at its Center for Public Policy and Diplomacy.⁵¹ During the two-month session, mid-level officials from developing countries improved their technical and managerial skills. Participants included citizens from Ivory Coast, Sierra Leone, Tanzania, South Africa, Cameroon, The Gambia and Egypt.⁵² After the transition from apartheid in South Africa, both Southern University and Tuskegee planned programs with the new South African government. Southern worked with historically Black colleges in South Africa, which parallel the HBCUs in the U.S. Tuskegee is planned a cooperative with South Africa's Zululand University to assist in developing a farm extension program.⁵³

In 1995, the federal government contributed \$1 million grant to the United Negro College Fund Special Program Corporation to manage the Institute for International Public Policy. Created by Congress in 1992, the institute's purpose was to increase the minority representation in foreign service careers both in the private and public sectors.⁵⁴

⁴⁹ Ibid.

⁵⁰ Dent, David J. "African Ties Help HBCUs." *Black Enterprise*, vol. 23, no. 8, 03, 1993, pp. 20. ProQuest, <http://proxyhu.wrlc.org/login?url=https://www.proquest.com/magazines/african-ties-help-hbcus/docview/217876742/se-2?accountid=11490>.

⁵¹ Morgan, Joan. "World View: HBCUs have a Little-Known History of Involvement in International Development." *Black Issues in Higher Education*, vol. 12, no. 1, Mar 09, 1995, pp. 24. ProQuest, <http://proxyhu.wrlc.org/login?url=https://www.proquest.com/magazines/world-view-hbcus-have-little-known-history/docview/194206411/se-2?accountid=11490>.

⁵² Ibid.

⁵³ Ibid.

⁵⁴ Morgan, Joan. "World View: HBCUs have a Little-Known History of Involvement in International Development." *Black Issues in Higher Education*, vol. 12, no. 1, Mar 09, 1995, pp. 24. ProQuest, <http://proxyhu.wrlc.org/login?url=https://www.proquest.com/magazines/world-view-hbcus-have-little-known-history/docview/194206411/se-2?accountid=11490>.

In 1997, the National Association for Equal Opportunity in Higher Education (NAFEO) coordinated an HBCU Faculty Study Abroad program in partnership with Mobil Europe Ltd. via a \$25,000 grant.⁵⁵ Faculty members and administrators from HBCUs attended seminars in South Africa via the Mobil faculty fellowship program.

In 2004, USAID worked closely with host ministry of educations and higher education institutions in Africa, local and international NGOs, and the private sector to develop the Africa Education Initiative (AEI).⁵⁶The AEI was a \$200 million multiyear initiative focused on increasing access to quality basic educational opportunities in Africa via girls scholarship program, teacher training program, and program which provided textbooks and other learning tools in partnership with HBCUs.⁵⁷ Participating HBCUs included Hampton University, Elizabeth City State University, Alabama A&M University, Albany State University, Dillard University, and St. Augustine's College. The African states that participated in the AEI program were South Africa, Senegal, Ethiopia, Mali, Guinea, and Benin.

Contemporary HBCU-African Relations

HBCU-African relations have continued to develop in the 21st century, although there is a scarcity of departments dedicated to African studies at HBCUs in contemporary society. While every HBCU does not have an explicit African studies program, many have some form of history, global studies, international business, communications, health or social science program with courses related to Africa, or access to study abroad or exchange programs. Appendix B (below) contains a list of 59 HBCUs with academic or professional development opportunities for HBCU students on the African continent. HBCU alumni and faculty members have continued to be premier advocates for HBCU engagement on the African continent as numerous conferences, events, and seminars have taken place at HBCUs, in Washington D.C., and virtually due to the leadership of alumni who lead their own enterprises focused on Africa or who work for U.S. government agencies such as the U.S. Department of State, Department of Agriculture, and USAID, as well as multinational organizations like the United Nations.

Dr. Challenor notes that this the lack of African studies programs at HBCUs is namely due to the following five factors: a) the historical missions of HBCUs, which are primarily institutions that evolved into liberal arts colleges that prepared formerly enslaved Africans for productive work such

⁵⁵ HBCU Faculty Study Abroad. News Brief. Black Issues in Higher Education, June 12, 1997

⁵⁶ Africa Education Initiative. World News Brief. Los Angeles Sentinel. October 28, 2004.

⁵⁷ Africa Education Initiative. World News Brief. Los Angeles Sentinel. October 28, 2004.

as teaching or the ministry, and in a few instances entrepreneurial trades and vocational work; b) African studies programs primarily exist at a graduate level and most HBCUs are undergraduate institutions; c) since their founding, many HBCUs and African Americans have struggled and endured pressure to survive, making instruction and research on the African American experience a significant priority; d) professional opportunities for African Americans with degrees in African studies did not begin to permeate society until about 25 years after their conception (the late 1970s), and HBCU faculty trained in this field could hardly advocate for their existence at their institutions; and, e) the majority of HBCUs have struggled to obtain resources required for African studies programs provided by the U.S. Department of Education and major foundations.⁵⁸ Nevertheless, despite the lack of departments dedicated to comprehensive studies of African states, affairs, and issues, HBCUs have remained invested and committed to partnering with institutions that provide their students and faculty opportunities to engage the African continent.

In 2012, Paine College, Alabama State University, Prairie View A&M University, St. Augustine College, and North Carolina Central University participated in the Global Entrepreneurship Initiative and received a \$75,000 grant from the United Negro College Fund for a trade mission to Johannesburg and Tshwane (Pretoria), South Africa. Faculty members and students accompanied entrepreneurs seeking business opportunities in South Africa. The grant also helped fund a new course at Paine College on entrepreneurship.⁵⁹

In 2014, Morehouse College received a \$1 million gift from the Buffet Foundation to establish the Rugari Scholarship Program to educate young men who live in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Rwanda, Burundi and, Uganda. Eventually, the future Morehouse Men are expected to help lead this region of Africa forward.⁶⁰

In 2019, Xavier University and Southern University in Louisiana collaborated with the University of Oregon for students to participate in study abroad program⁶¹ in Ghana. Students spent time in New Orleans visiting landmarks and other important sites in the state, then travelled to

⁵⁸ Challenor, Herschelle S. "African Studies at Historically Black Colleges and Universities." *African Issues*, vol. 30, no. 2, Cambridge University Press, 2002, pp. 24–29, <https://doi.org/10.2307/1535085>.

⁵⁹ "Five HBCUs Participating in the Global Entrepreneurship Initiative." *Journal of Blacks in Higher Education* (Online), 2012. ProQuest, <http://proxyhu.wrlc.org/login?url=https://www.proquest.com/scholarly-journals/five-hbcus-participating-global-entrepreneurship/docview/1038376110/se-2?accountid=11490>.

⁶⁰ Commodore, F. and Gasman, M. Global Expansion: HBCUs Embracing The African Diaspora. *HBCU Lifestyle*. <https://hbculifestyle.com/african-diaspora-at-hbcus/>

⁶¹ University of Oregon Teams Up with Two HBCUs to Offer a Unique Study Abroad Experience. Jun 25, 2019 *Journal of Blacks in Higher Education* (Online); New York. <https://www.jbhe.com/2019/06/university-of-oregon-teams-up-with-two-hbcus-to-offer-a-unique-study-abroad-experience/>

Ghana, where they will live with host families while attending classes and excursions, including visits to historical points of interest related to the trans-Atlantic slave trade.

In 2020, Morgan State University in Baltimore, MD pioneered a new pathway in HBCU-Africa relations, with the establishment of a satellite campus in partnership with the African University College of Communications (AUCC) in Accra, Ghana.⁶² The program allows Ghanaian citizens to complete courses at Morgan State while in Ghana as they matriculate towards obtaining a degree.⁶³ The program offers three degree programs – a Master of Business Administration, a Master of Science in Global Multimedia Journalism and Communications, and a Bachelor of Science in Entrepreneurship – and consists of Morgan State faculty from its Earl G. Graves School of Business and Management and School of Global Journalism and Communication to teach courses in Ghana throughout the year to incoming cohorts.⁶⁴ The three degree programs are offered in a hybrid delivery consisting of face-to-face and online instruction.⁶⁵

During the summer of 2020, African Diaspora Nation (ADN), an international non-government organization based in Atlanta, GA, which describes itself as “a global borderless nation of people of African descent and lovers of Africa who are about citizen empowerment for African transformation by 2025 within the context of the UN Sustainable Development Goals”, convened leaders from HBCUs, African universities, and social enterprise organizations for HBCU Africa Homecoming.⁶⁶ At the virtual conference, participants and leaders from 14 HBCUs, including Morgan State University, Tennessee State University, Fisk University, and Benedict College, collaborated to support ADN’s establishment of an HBCU Africa Education Consortium. The consortium seeks to serve as the foundation for connections among stakeholders of HBCUs and African diaspora educational programs.⁶⁷

⁶² Morgan State University News, Morgan State University to Offer Three Degree Programs in Ghana Following Board Approval. Feb. 10, 2020 - <https://news.morgan.edu/degree-programs-in-ghana/>

⁶³ Morgan State University News, Morgan State University to Offer Three Degree Programs in Ghana Following Board Approval. Feb. 10, 2020 - <https://news.morgan.edu/degree-programs-in-ghana/>

⁶⁴ Ibid.

⁶⁵ Ibid.

⁶⁶ Primus, K. “The Local Take Talks HBCU African Homecoming Ghana” March 2020. WCLK.com <https://www.wclk.com/community-engagement/2020-03-08/the-local-take-talks-hbcu-african-homecoming-ghana>

⁶⁷ African Diaspora Nation. “HBCUs and African University Leaders United in HBCU Africa Education Consortium” July 2020. <https://www.africandiasporanation.org/post/hbcus-and-african-university-leaders-unite-in-hbcu-africa-education-consortium-against-disparities>

Conclusion

As our global, interdependent, and interconnected society continues to evolve and technological advancements continue to present new opportunities for members of the international community to engage, learn, trade, consume, and travel, it is evident that both the HBCU community and African societies will remain relevant in the 21st century. Considering societal developments that have been catalyzed by the COVID-19 pandemic, and the ongoing 4th industrial revolution that is affecting developed and underdeveloped nations in varying ways, the future will also present opportunities for HBCUs, African universities, and public, private and multinational organizations to collaborate.

Historically ties between HBCUs and Africa have been facilitated by Christian organizations, government agencies, foundations and philanthropists. In contemporary society HBCUs have continued to work with government agencies, while also working with foreign educational institutions based in African states, and public and private organizations interested in increasing engagement between African societies and HBCUs.

There is a great need for more research on the topic of HBCU and Africa relations, considering the lack of formal African studies programs at HBCUs, the lack of engagement between African-Americans and members of African societies, and the rapid increase of HBCU interest in partnerships and programs on the African continent, which is largely due to the amount of African faculty members and students based at HBCUs. Considering the youth population in African nations and projections for the future, HBCUs are viable partners for African governments, universities, businesses and institutions.

I am hopeful that further research on the subject will be useful to members of the international community, HBCUs and their stakeholders, and African nations. Considering pioneers such as DuBois, Washington, Bunche, and Nkrumah, I intend to utilize their efforts for strategic purposes as I engage in future research around HBCU and Africa relations.

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Appendix A. HBCU-Africa Related Events

Howard University's Center for African Studies,
AfroCROWD and Strong Men Overcoming
Obstacles Through Hard-work, Inc. present



**Indaba Diaspora Panel
Discussion at Wiki Indaba 2021**

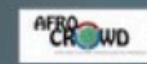



Join students, alumni and faculty from Howard University and Morgan State University as they discuss the importance of transatlantic partnership among Africa and its diaspora

NOV | 4th

9:30 AM ET/13:30PM UTC

Registration Link
www.eventbrite.com
Search: wiki-Indaba 2021

Guest Speakers
Dr. Phiwokuhle Mnyandu
Dr. Krista Johnson Director,
HU Center for African Studies



WIKIPEDIA ONLINE EXCHANGE FOCUS: AFRICA



WIKIPEDIA EXCHANGE SKILLSHARE



FREE WIKIPEDIA TRAINING AND SKILL SHARE
BETWEEN AFRICAN WIKIPEDIANS AND HBCU
STUDENTS HOSTED BY HOWARD UNIVERSITY,
AFROCROWD.ORG & SMOOTH INC.

DECEMBER 10 ONLINE EVENT
10:30 AM-1:00 PM EST / 1530-1800 UTC



Sign up: Bit.ly/AfrocrowdHBCUAfrica1210



Appendix B. HBCUs with Opportunities to Study in Africa

59 of the approximate 105 HBCUs in Appendix B (below) have study abroad programs that facilitate academic and professional development experiences for students in at least one African nation.

HBCUs with Opportunities to Study in Africa					
School	City	State	Founded	Type	Study Abroad or Academic Program in Africa
<u>Alabama A&M University</u>	<u>Normal</u>	<u>Alabama</u>	1875	Public	<u>Yes</u>
<u>Alabama State University</u>	<u>Montgomery</u>	<u>Alabama</u>	1867	Public	<u>No</u>
<u>Albany State University</u>	<u>Albany</u>	<u>Georgia</u>	1903	Public	<u>Yes</u>
<u>Alcorn State University</u>	<u>Lorman</u>	<u>Mississippi</u>	1871	Public	<u>Yes</u>
<u>Allen University</u>	<u>Columbia</u>	<u>South Carolina</u>	1870	Private	<u>No</u>
<u>American Baptist College</u>	<u>Nashville</u>	<u>Tennessee</u>	1924	Private	No
<u>University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff</u>	<u>Pine Bluff</u>	<u>Arkansas</u>	1873	Public	<u>Yes</u>
<u>Arkansas Baptist College</u>	<u>Little Rock</u>	<u>Arkansas</u>	1884	Private	No
<u>Barber-Scotia College</u>	<u>Concord</u>	<u>North Carolina</u>	1867	Private	No

HBCUs with Opportunities to Study in Africa					
School	City	State	Founded	Type	Study Abroad or Academic Program in Africa
Benedict College	Columbia	South Carolina	1870	Private	Yes
Bennett College	Greensboro	North Carolina	1873	Private	Yes
Bethune-Cookman University	Daytona Beach	Florida	1904	Private	Yes
Bishop State Community College	Mobile	Alabama	1927	Public	No
Bluefield State College	Bluefield	West Virginia	1895	Public	Yes
Bowie State University	Bowie	Maryland	1865	Public	Yes
Central State University	Wilberforce	Ohio	1887	Public	Yes
Charles Drew University	Los Angeles	California	1965	Private	Yes
Cheyney University of Pennsylvania	Cheyney	Pennsylvania	1837	Public	Yes
Claflin University	Orangeburg	South Carolina	1869	Private	Yes
Clark Atlanta University	Atlanta	Georgia	1865	Private	Yes
Clinton College	Rock Hill	South Carolina	1894	Private	N/a

HBCUs with Opportunities to Study in Africa					
School	City	State	Founded	Type	Study Abroad or Academic Program in Africa
Coahoma Community College	Coahoma County	Mississippi	1924	Public	N/a
Coppin State University	Baltimore	Maryland	1900	Public	Yes
Delaware State University	Dover	Delaware	1891	Public	Yes
Denmark Technical College	Denmark	South Carolina	1947	Public	N/a
Dillard University	New Orleans	Louisiana	1869	Private	No
University of the District of Columbia	Washington	District of Columbia	1851	Public	N/a
Edward Waters University	Jacksonville	Florida	1866	Private	N/a
Elizabeth City State University	Elizabeth City	North Carolina	1891	Public	Yes
Fayetteville State University	Fayetteville	North Carolina	1867	Public	Yes
Fisk University	Nashville	Tennessee	1866	Private	Yes
Florida A&M University	Tallahassee	Florida	1887	Public	Yes
Florida Memorial University	Miami Gardens	Florida	1879	Private	Yes

HBCUs with Opportunities to Study in Africa					
School	City	State	Founded	Type	Study Abroad or Academic Program in Africa
Fort Valley State University	Fort Valley	Georgia	1895	Public	Yes
Gadsden State Community College	Gadsden	Alabama	1925	Public	N/a
Grambling State University	Grambling	Louisiana	1901	Public	Yes
Hampton University	Hampton	Virginia	1868	Private	Yes
Harris-Stowe State University	St. Louis	Missouri	1857	Public	Yes
Hinds Community College at Utica	Utica	Mississippi	1903	Public	No
Howard University	Washington	District of Columbia	1867	Private	Yes
Huston-Tillotson University	Austin	Texas	1875	Private	N/a
Interdenominational Theological Center	Atlanta	Georgia	1958	Private	N/a
J. F. Drake State Technical College	Huntsville	Alabama	1961	Public	N/a
Jackson State University	Jackson	Mississippi	1877	Public	Yes
Jarvis Christian College	Hawkins	Texas	1912	Private	

HBCUs with Opportunities to Study in Africa					
School	City	State	Founded	Type	Study Abroad or Academic Program in Africa
Johnson C. Smith University	Charlotte	North Carolina	1867	Private	Yes
Kentucky State University	Frankfort	Kentucky	1886	Public	Yes
Knoxville College	Knoxville (Mechanicsville)	Tennessee	1875	Private	N/a
Lane College	Jackson	Tennessee	1882	Private	N/a
Langston University	Langston	Oklahoma	1897	Public	N/a
Lawson State Community College	Bessemer	Alabama	1949	Public	N/a
LeMoyne-Owen College	Memphis	Tennessee	1862	Private	N/a
Lincoln University	Chester County	Pennsylvania	1854	Public	Yes
Lincoln University of Missouri	Jefferson City	Missouri	1866	Public	Yes
Livingstone College	Salisbury	North Carolina	1879	Private	No
University of Maryland Eastern Shore	Princess Anne	Maryland	1886	Public	Yes
Meharry Medical College	Nashville	Tennessee	1876	Private	N/a
Miles College	Fairfield	Alabama	1898	Private	Yes

HBCUs with Opportunities to Study in Africa					
School	City	State	Founded	Type	Study Abroad or Academic Program in Africa
<u>Mississippi Valley State University</u>	<u>Itta Bena</u>	<u>Mississippi</u>	1950	Public	<u>Yes</u>
<u>Morehouse College</u>	<u>Atlanta</u>	<u>Georgia</u>	1867	Private	<u>Yes</u>
<u>Morgan State University</u>	<u>Baltimore</u>	<u>Maryland</u>	1867	Public	<u>Yes</u>
<u>Morris Brown College</u>	<u>Atlanta</u>	<u>Georgia</u>	1881	Private	No
<u>Morris College</u>	<u>Sumter</u>	<u>South Carolina</u>	1908	Private	<u>Yes</u>
<u>Norfolk State University</u>	<u>Norfolk</u>	<u>Virginia</u>	1935	Public	<u>Yes</u>
<u>North Carolina Agricultural & Technical State University</u>	<u>Greensboro</u>	<u>North Carolina</u>	1891	Public	<u>Yes</u>
<u>North Carolina Central University</u>	<u>Durham</u>	<u>North Carolina</u>	1910	Public	<u>Yes</u>
<u>Oakwood University</u>	<u>Huntsville</u>	<u>Alabama</u>	1896	Private	N/a
<u>Paine College</u>	<u>Augusta</u>	<u>Georgia</u>	1882	Private	N/a
<u>Paul Quinn College</u>	<u>Dallas</u>	<u>Texas</u>	1872	Private	N/a
<u>Payne Theological Seminary</u>	<u>Wilberforce</u>	<u>Ohio</u>	1856	Private	N/a

HBCUs with Opportunities to Study in Africa					
School	City	State	Founded	Type	Study Abroad or Academic Program in Africa
<u>Philander Smith College</u>	<u>Little Rock</u>	<u>Arkansas</u>	1877	Private	N/a
<u>Prairie View A&M University</u>	<u>Prairie View</u>	<u>Texas</u>	1876	Public	<u>Yes</u>
<u>Rust College</u>	<u>Holly Springs</u>	<u>Mississippi</u>	1866	Private	<u>Yes</u>
<u>Savannah State University</u>	<u>Savannah</u>	<u>Georgia</u>	1890	Public	<u>Yes</u>
<u>Selma University</u>	<u>Selma</u>	<u>Alabama</u>	1878	Private	N/a
<u>Shaw University</u>	<u>Raleigh</u>	<u>North Carolina</u>	1865	Private	<u>Yes</u>
<u>Shorter College</u>	<u>North Little Rock</u>	<u>Arkansas</u>	1886	Private	N/a
<u>Shelton State Community College</u>	<u>Tuscaloosa</u>	<u>Alabama</u>	1952	Public	N/a
<u>Simmons College</u>	<u>Louisville</u>	<u>Kentucky</u>	1869	Private	N/a
<u>South Carolina State University</u>	<u>Orangeburg</u>	<u>South Carolina</u>	1896	Public	<u>Yes</u>
<u>Southern University at New Orleans</u>	<u>New Orleans</u>	<u>Louisiana</u>	1959	Public	Yes
<u>Southern University at Shreveport</u>	<u>Shreveport</u>	<u>Louisiana</u>	1967	Public	Yes
<u>Southern University and A&M College</u>	<u>Baton Rouge</u>	<u>Louisiana</u>	1880	Public	Yes

HBCUs with Opportunities to Study in Africa					
School	City	State	Founded	Type	Study Abroad or Academic Program in Africa
Southwestern Christian College	Terrell	Texas	1948	Private	N/a
Spelman College	Atlanta	Georgia	1881	Private	Yes
St. Augustine's University	Raleigh	North Carolina	1867	Private	Yes
St. Philip's College	San Antonio	Texas	1898	Public	N/a
Stillman College	Tuscaloosa	Alabama	1876	Private	N/a
Talladega College	Talladega	Alabama	1867	Private	N/a
Tennessee State University	Nashville	Tennessee	1912	Public	Yes
Texas College	Tyler	Texas	1894	Private	N/a
Texas Southern University	Houston	Texas	1927	Public	Yes
Tougaloo College	Hinds County	Mississippi	1869	Private	N/a
Trenholm State Community College	Montgomery	Alabama	1947	Public	N/a
Tuskegee University	Tuskegee	Alabama	1881	Private	Yes
University of the Virgin Islands	St. Croix & St. Thomas	United States Virgin Islands	1962	Public	N/a
Virginia State University	Petersburg	Virginia	1882	Public	Yes

HBCUs with Opportunities to Study in Africa					
School	City	State	Founded	Type	Study Abroad or Academic Program in Africa
<u>Virginia Union University</u>	<u>Richmond</u>	<u>Virginia</u>	1865	Private	
<u>Virginia University of Lynchburg</u>	<u>Lynchburg</u>	<u>Virginia</u>	1886	Private	N/a
<u>Voorhees College</u>	<u>Denmark</u>	<u>South Carolina</u>	1897	Private	N/a
<u>West Virginia State University</u>	<u>Institute</u>	<u>West Virginia</u>	1891	Public	Yes
<u>Wilberforce University</u>	<u>Wilberforce</u>	<u>Ohio</u>	1856	Private	Yes
<u>Wiley College</u>	<u>Marshall</u>	<u>Texas</u>	1873	Private	N/a
<u>Winston-Salem State University</u>	<u>Winston-Salem</u>	<u>North Carolina</u>	1892	Public	Yes
<u>Xavier University of Louisiana</u>	<u>New Orleans</u>	<u>Louisiana</u>	1915	Private	Yes