



May 11, 2011

The Honorable Harold Rogers
Chairman, Appropriations Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Norman Dicks
Ranking Member, Appropriations Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Rogers and Ranking Member Dicks:

On behalf of UNCF, NAFEO and TMCFC, we write to request your assistance and support in protecting federal funding for Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) and Predominantly Black Institutions (PBIs). As the demographics of our nation continue to change, HBCUs and PBIs must be a central focus of targeted resources across the federal spectrum. In order for our nation to successfully prepare its next generation of workers and entrepreneurs with the tools necessary to thrive within a globally competitive 21st-century economy, HBCUs and PBIs must be targeted for investment and growth.

Our top seven priorities include protecting the maximum funding for Pell Grants, continuing funding for Title III, Part B (undergraduate and graduate programs), continuing funding for the HBCU Capital Financing Program and raising the loan guarantee statutory cap, funding Title III, Part A Predominantly Black Institutions, providing new funding of the authorized MSI Digital Divide program, and protecting the funding for the HUD HBCU Community Development Grant Program.

- **Maximum Pell Grant- \$5,550.** We join the Student Aid Alliance and others in the higher education community in seeking increased funding for programs authorized under Title IV of the Higher Education Act. Particularly, we support efforts to provide sufficient Pell Grant funding to ensure that the maximum award of \$5,550 is not reduced in the 2011-12 academic year. As students make their year-long education aid plans based on already released Pell Grant payment schedules, it is imperative that the funding is not disrupted, decreased, or delayed.
- **Strengthening Historically Black Colleges and Universities Title III Part B, section 323- \$267 million.** This program has been a source of vital institutional assistance for HBCUs nationwide. The funding supports undergraduate programs and activities under section 323, including acquiring property, providing financial literacy education, purchasing equipment, and technical assistance. Additionally, the mandatory funding for Title III, Part B, included in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act is of critical importance.

- **Title III, Part D, HBCU Capital Financing New Loan Subsidy Costs- \$20.58 million and Raise the Loan Guarantee Statutory Cap to at least \$1.7 billion.** This program provides a low-cost alternative to traditional sources of capital financing for HBCUs seeking to improve capital projects (e.g., campus academic and residential facilities). Additionally, the program is approaching, if not already reaching, the authorized guarantee of up to \$1.1 billion in principal and interest to qualifying HBCUs. Appropriations language is urgently needed to allow new loans in FY 2012 without regard to the program's loan guarantee statutory cap.
- **Title III, Part B, section 326, HBCU Graduate Programs- \$61.4 million.** This program supports activities underway at doctoral degree-granting and professional schools with particular strengths and capacities in STEM-related fields. The program contributes significantly to meeting demands associated with global competitiveness and increasing the numbers of African Americans that receive advanced training in critical areas of national need.
- **Strengthening Predominantly Black Institutions, Title III Part A, section 318- \$10.8 million.** This program supports urban and rural colleges with an enrollment of at least 40 percent African American students, while also serving at least 50 percent low-income and first-generation college students. This request will support adding additional qualifying institutions while assisting capacity-building efforts by those institutions that need and currently receive support from the program.
- **Minority Institutions Digital and Wireless Technology Opportunity Program- \$250 million.** This program is to be administered by the Department of Commerce to assist Minority Serving Institutions (MSIs) in improving their instrumentation, connectivity, hardware and software for instruction and research. Report language was included in the House and Senate CJS bill in the 111th Congress directing the Secretary of Commerce to report on plans to move forward with the program. The program still needs to be funded and complements the President's goal of increasing access to broadband technology across the country.
- **University Community Fund Program- \$25 million.** This program was eliminated as a part of the year-long Continuing Resolution. The President's FY 2012 budget also proposed elimination. We ask that the program be restored and include a more robust requirement related to evaluation of impact and efficacy. Permissible use of funding includes acquisition of property, construction, renovation, sewers, and water systems.

In addition, our Coalition requests your support in securing FY 2012 funding for the following programs:

Commerce-Justice-Science

- **NASA Minority University Research & Education Program- \$31.4 million.** NASA's Minority University Research and Education Program helps to expand opportunities for students from underrepresented groups who are pursuing degrees in science and engineering, and to strengthen the research capabilities of minority universities and colleges. Programmatic goals include enhancement of institutional infrastructure in NASA-related areas, the provision of technical assistance to facilitate planning and

development, and the use of new technologies that will ensure the long-term viability and educational outcomes of HBCUs in areas relevant to NASA's mission.

Defense

- **HBCU/Minority Institution Program- \$50 million.** This program is authorized and administered by the Department of Defense and provides funding to HBCUs and other MSIs for programs, instrumentation and equipment acquisition efforts associated with specific Department objectives. The program plays a key role in fueling the engagement of HBCUs and MSIs and their students and faculty in the Department of Defense enterprise. More engagement of HBCUs and MSIs in applied research is needed, as well as more collaboration between HBCUs that lack these capabilities with institutions and organizations that do.

Education

-
- **Title III, Part C, Endowment Challenge Grant- \$25 million.** This program enables institutions to establish or increase institutional endowment funds. Grants must be matched by the institutions on a dollar for every two federal dollars.
- **Title VII, Masters Degree Programs- \$11.5 million.** This program permits 18 HBCUs and five PBIs to receive maximum grants of \$1 million and minimum grants of \$500,000 for purposes permitted under Title III, Part B.
- **Minority Science and Engineering Improvement Program (MSEIP)- \$9.5 million.** This program supports the participation of underrepresented minority youth in STEM through outreach and hands on learning projects and supports a marketing campaign aimed at encouraging minorities to enter the STEM fields.
- **Title II, Teacher Quality Enhancement, Augustus Hawkins Centers of Excellence at MSIs- \$40 million.** Funds under this competitive grant program may be used to implement reforms within teacher preparation programs to ensure their understanding of scientifically-valid research and effective use of advanced technology. This program is named after the late Congressman Augustus F. Hawkins. This targeted investment is needed to meet national priorities and requirements, particularly those related to building a more diverse and better-trained teaching workforce.

Energy

- **HBCU Initiative- \$10.6 million.** This program supports the enhanced engagement of Historically Black Colleges and Universities in applied and basic research activities, environmental management, science, alternative energy and other programs falling under the Department's jurisdiction. Secretary of Energy Chu said it best on his blog about meeting with HBCU representatives, "By continuing to expand and support our partnerships with HBCUs, we can encourage more students from minority communities to explore careers in science, engineering and mathematics. A diversity of students, from diverse backgrounds, will create a diversity of ideas, spurring innovation in the clean energy sector."

Department of Homeland Security

- **University Program Centers of Excellence- \$36.5 million.** The Homeland Security Centers of Excellence (HS Centers) bring together leading experts and researchers to conduct multidisciplinary research and education for homeland security solutions. The HS Centers are authorized by Congress and chosen by the Department of Homeland Security's Science & Technology Directorate through a competitive selection process. Each center is led by a university in collaboration with partners from other institutions, agencies, laboratories, think tanks, and the private sector.

Department of the Interior

- **HBCU Historic Preservation- \$25 million.** Considering the age of many HBCU campuses, historic preservation costs are daunting. In 1998, the National Trust for Historic Preservation designated the nation's 105 HBCUs among the country's most endangered historic sites. While there is a matching requirement, these funds provide much-needed assistance to schools that are combating increased challenges associated with gaining access to capital for campus improvements.

We appreciate the support and recognition given to HBCUs. While we understand that funding levels are tight and many demands are placed on the budgets of agencies across the board, budget cuts to federal programs must be made carefully, responsibly, and with consideration of higher education's vital role to the success of our nation.

Thank you again for your assistance and support.

Sincerely,



Michael L. Lomax, Ph.D.
President & CEO
UNCF



Lezli Baskerville, Ph.D.
President & CEO
NAFEO



Johnny C. Taylor, Jr.
President & CEO
TMCF

Cc: The Honorable Denny Rehberg
The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
The Honorable James C. Clyburn
The Honorable Bill Young
The Honorable Emanuel Cleaver
The Honorable Steve Cohen
The Honorable Bobby Scott
The Honorable Chaka Fattah
The Honorable Eddie Bernice Johnson
The Honorable Corrine Brown
Dr. Norman C. Francis
Dr. Ernest McNealey