



ELEVATING EXCELLENCE IN TRANSPORTATION ADVANCEMENT: A VISIONARY BLUEPRINT FOR DOT-HBCU & MSI COLLABORATION INTRODUCED

In 2021, the Biden-Harris Administration authorized two directives aimed at further empowering HBCUs: Executive Order 14041, Advancing Educational Equity, Excellence, and Economic Opportunity through Historically Black Colleges and Universities; and Executive Order 14050, Advancing Educational Equity, Excellence, and Economic Opportunity for Black Americans.

The U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) is committed to supporting those order by promoting innovation and transformative change that is responsive to a nation of diverse stakeholders and is proud to announce it has released a thorough and comprehensive strategic plan to foster more robust partnerships with the nation's Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) and, other Minority Serving Institutions (MSIs).

These coordinated efforts across DOT's Operating Administrations (OAs) will help drive innovation, equity, and excellence throughout the transportation sector. The strategic plan outlines a multifaceted approach that encompasses increased funding opportunities, dedicated research partnerships, expanded internship and mentorship programs, and tailored technical assistance offerings, designed to forge new HBCU partnerships and strengthen existing ones.



"We've been very thoughtful and purposeful in developing our strategic plan with a focus on accelerating access for HBCUs and MSIs," said Irene Marion, Director of the Departmental Office of Civil Rights. "This ONE DOT approach recognizes the power of leveraging diverse perspectives and the need to cultivate talent from institutions to continue to drive innovation, which is a part of the fabric of the Department of Transportation."

OUR GOALS

The guidance provided in the strategic plan will support the DOT's compliance with federal directives and help foster more support and engagement with HBCUs and MSIs through the realization of five overarching goals:

- 1. One DOT** – Strengthen departmental coordination of cohesive HBCU outreach through focused messaging and scheduled departmental events designed to optimize HBCU engagement.
- 2. Career Pathways** – Actively diversify the transportation workforce pipeline and ensure HBCU students, faculty, and staff are aware of career pathways and job opportunities across various DOT Operating Administrations.
- 3. Technical Assistance and Capacity Building** – Enhance technical assistance support to encourage more HBCU partnerships and facilitate the viability of current HBCU partners who have secured grants, contracts, and cooperative agreements.
- 4. Research and Innovation** – Position HBCUs as national leaders for transportation advancements and entrepreneurship through the support, circulation, and showcase of HBCU research and its impact on the transportation system.
- 5. MSI Baselines and Benchmarks** – In Year 2 of this planning period, apply best practices and proven strategies from expanded HBCU engagement to establish a baseline for building partnerships with select MSIs to support DOT's equity goals.

The plan signals a necessary culture shift and is now underway.

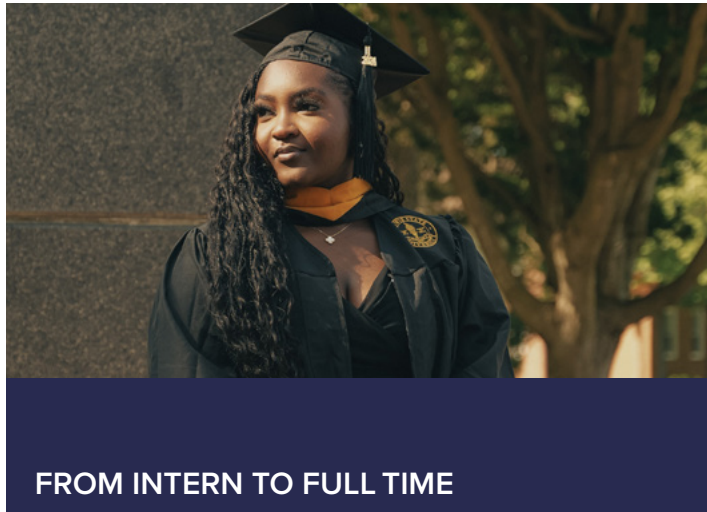


IN CASE YOU MISSED IT, AKA #ICYMI
HOWARD MEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM

Photo credit: Howard University Men's Basketball Twitter Account

In January, the Howard University Men's Basketball team met with the Secretary of Transportation, Pete Buttigieg, and Director, Irene Marian, to learn more about the Department of Transportation Equity Plan under President Biden.

Accelerate your access to One DOT by following us across all social media platforms [X](#), [Instagram](#), [Facebook](#), [LinkedIn](#).



FROM INTERN TO FULL TIME

Meet Funmi Ogunseye! Funmi earned her undergraduate and master's degrees from Bowie State University in Maryland. While at Bowie State, Funmi served as a Mission Support Intern and has earned a position of IT specialist, S81 with the Office of the Chief Information Officer. "We are incredibly excited to have her on board and looking forward to see-ing her growth throughout the year," said Associate Chief Diversity Officer Erin Martin.



DID YOU KNOW
ALABAMA A&M UNIVERSITY RECEIVES \$8.1 MILLION U.S. DOT GRANT

The U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Transit Administration (FTA) announced Alabama A&M University's Bulldog Transit System will receive \$8.1 million in grant funding for upgrades, facility expansions, solar energy storage, and other projects. The grant will help the AAMU transit system transition to zero emissions. Of the 130 awards totaling nearly \$1.7 billion from President Biden's Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, AAMU was the only Alabama awardee.



GROUNDBREAKING SCSU ONE DOT SUMMIT SERVES AS A CATALYST FOR CHANGE

Photo credit: Sharon Boddie

Nearly 350 registrants attended the inaugural One-DOT Summit held on the campus of South Carolina State University in September. The One-DOT Summit served as an opportunity for students and administrators from HBCUs in South Carolina to learn, discuss, and network around education, careers, research, technology, and partnership opportunities with the Department of Transportation as we seek to accelerate inclusive and equitable access. This two-day summit produced as a collaborative experience between the South Carolina State University (SCSU) Institute for Business, Environment, Communications and Transportation (BECT), the Federal Motor Carriers Safety Administration (FMCSA) Operating Administration featured remarks from Congressman James Clyburn, and several stakeholders within DOT.



REP YOUR SCHOOL

Resuming in the Fall on the fourth Friday of each month, please join FAA in representing your favorite HBCU. During this forum, students, faculty, industry professionals, and more will have the opportunity to network, chat, and share information on all things HBCU.

IN THE NEXT EDITION:

1. HBCU Week Recap
2. Wealth Creation Tour Updates
3. A comprehensive list of all HBCU UTCs



FMCSA SHOWS UP AND SHOWS OUT DURING CIAA

The CIAA Tournament is one of the premier athletic events across the HBCU landscape, and 2024 was no different. To grow awareness, engagement, and consideration from high school and college students, FMCSA staff attended events throughout the week, including conducting a roadshow with each school and attending the Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association Conference career fair. During the career fair, staff provided information about career opportunities and allowed attendees to experience their new Virtual Reality (VR) goggles. The VR goggles gave attendees an immersive experience of what it's like being in the cab of a large truck navigating blind spots, and provided examples of how other vehicles should safely maneuver and share the road.



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