

## Raising the Bar: Where Excellence and Opportunity Meet

SEPTEMBER 15-19, 2024 • PHILADELPHIA MARRIOTT DOWNTOWN, PHILADELPHIA, PA

### SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

#### NATIONAL HBCU WEEK CONFERENCE

The Annual National HBCU Week Conference is the nation's premier convening of college and university executive leadership, faculty, students, and supporters. It is implemented under the leadership of the Initiative, in consultation with the Executive Office of the President and U.S. Department of Education. The event provides a unique occasion for federal agencies, private sector companies and philanthropic organizations to participate and provide useful information and successful models to improve instruction, degree completion and federal engagement ensuring the sustained elimination of systemic inequities.

This year's theme is ***Raising the Bar: Where Excellence and Opportunity Meet***. Our objective is to identify and target tangible opportunities that will connect federal and private resources to the HBCU community while showcasing HBCU excellence. This conference will feature sessions grouped into the following paths of engagement:

**Career Pathways and Economic Mobility:** This track is designed to maximize programs, resources, and initiatives that support the recruitment of HBCU talent, human capital, and career advancement opportunities.

**Research and Innovation:** This track is designed to expand research capacity and opportunities within federal agencies, private and nonprofit organizations for HBCUs. It is an opportunity to showcase innovation through partnerships that involve HBCUs, its faculty and its students.

**Economic Development:** This track will provide information on how HBCUs can leverage partnerships that advance opportunities to promote the economic wealth of the HBCU and the communities they serve.

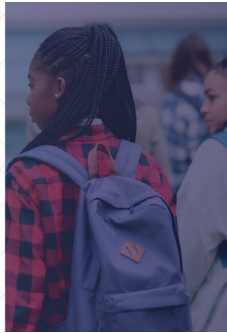
**STEAM:** Exploring evidence-based tools and innovative practices in Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics.

**Infrastructure:** Broadening access to resources that provides equitable support to mitigate, enhance and sustain physical and technological infrastructure.

**Emerging Leaders:** Formulated for students and entry to mid-level professionals.

**Executive Leadership:** Invitation only engagements for HBCU Presidents and invited executive.

Note: Presidents and Chancellors should refer to additional information provided by Executive Director Dietra Trent.



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## Pre- Conference

### Sunday, September 15 • Career Fair and Welcome Day

9:30 a.m.

Career Fair Registration Check In

9:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.

#### *Current Student and Recent Graduate Career Fair*

The 6th Annual National HBCU Week Conference Career and Recruitment Fair: **Career Pathways and Economic Mobility** aims to advance and maximize programs, resources, and initiatives that support the recruitment of HBCU talent, human capital, and career advancement opportunities; with an underlying objective to identify and fill available opportunities on-site. This career fair, welcomes 100 employers, will host 5 professional development sessions, and will include direct hiring and interviewing opportunities.

#### *Professional Development Sessions*

Time	Title
9:00 am	<p><b>Crafting Your Professional Brand: Strategies for HBCU Students to Achieve Workplace Success</b></p> <p>In today's dynamic job market, a strong professional brand is the key to unlocking opportunities and advancing your career. Join us for an engaging session where you'll discover practical strategies to craft a compelling personal brand that sets you apart. Learn how to showcase your unique strengths, values, and aspirations effectively, both online and offline. By the end of the session, you'll walk away with actionable steps to enhance your professional presence and position yourself for success in any field. This opportunity isn't just about personal growth—it's about empowering the HBCU community to thrive in the competitive world of work.</p>
10:15 am	<p><b>Master Your Mock: Interview Skills and Strategies to Land Your Dream Job</b></p> <p>Interview performance plays a crucial role in hiring decisions, and to stand out in today's job market, applicants must prioritize mastering their interview skills. Sign up today for "Master Your Mock" and learn new skills and strategies for impactful interviews that will lead you to land your dream job and advance your career. During an interactive session, HBCU graduate students and alumni are invited to participate in structured interviews with a diverse panel of mid/senior-level career professionals from the U.S. Commodity Futures Trading Commission, a federal financial regulatory agency. During a 30-minute simulation, participants will respond to questions related to finance industry career pathways and receive feedback for strengthening their responses. Prior to their mock interview, participants will also submit their resume in advance to our resume review team of experts for feedback on showcasing their work experience and skills.</p>
11:30 pm	<p><b>Crafting a Resume that will make me Competitive</b></p> <p>Interested in a career in public service? Confused about what differences exist between the private sector and public service? Come learn about the required information for a federal resume and how to customize your resume to highlight your strengths and accomplishments. Get your unique questions about the federal application process answered so that you confidently pursue your next internship or career opportunity after graduation.</p> <p>***Privacy Notice*** We are collecting your contact information for registration. We are collecting your email address so that OPM can contact you with updates regarding this event. Providing this information is voluntary, however if you do not provide it, you may not be able to participate in the event and we will not be able to update you regarding any changes to this event.</p>
1:30 pm	<p><b>Unlocking Potential: The Power of Registered Apprenticeships for HBCU Students</b></p> <p>Join us to discover how Registered Apprenticeships create career opportunities for HBCU students, offering inclusive pathways, financial support, and valuable workforce skills.</p>
2:45 pm	<p><b>Your Money Matters: If it doesn't make dollars it doesn't make cents.</b></p> <p>Every decision you make has a cost. Financial freedom is NOT free. To achieve your financial goals, let's talk planning your spending, making budgeting easy, investing in yourself, making credit your frenemy, exploring compounding strategies, and creating multiple streams of income.</p> <p>Join FHFA in a must have financial literacy workshop!</p>

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#### *Direct Hire Opportunities*

Time	Agency/Organization Name
6:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.	Internal Revenue Service (IRS)
6:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.	U.S. Department of State
6:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.	U.S. Department of the Interior

4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

#### *Conference Attendee Registration Check-In*

6:00 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.

#### *Raise the Bar Welcome Event*

Join us for a lively and inspirations kickoff event to celebrate the legacy and impact of HBCUs. Come dressed in your favorite HBCU or Divine 9 gear and show your pride. This will be your opportunity to network, connect with fellow alumni and students and set the stage for the week’s events. Let’s raise the bar!

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#### The Main Event

#### Monday, September 16 • SCHEDULE AT-A-GLANCE- DAY 1-OPENING

7 a.m.

**Registration Check- In**

8:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.

**Raising the Bar: Where Excellence and Opportunity Meet**

Join us for the grand opening of the Annual National HBCU Week Conference. This inspiring ceremony will set the tone for an enriching week of networking, learning and collaboration.

9:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.

**Exhibit Hall Open**

9:31 a.m. – 9:59 a.m.

**Networking and Transition to Breakouts**

10 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.

**Concurrent Workshops 1**

Track	Title & Description
Career Pathways and Economic Mobility	<p><b>Level Up to Public Service</b></p> <p>With the goal of increasing awareness of and interest in public service careers among early career talent, specifically college and high school students from underserved communities, the Office of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility launched the Level Up to Public Service Initiative in April 2023. Join us for a discussion on barriers HBCU students face applying for internships and/or federal jobs; understand the that all majors are represented as careers in federal service; and learn what benefits and environments are students looking for in post graduate careers.</p>
Research and Innovation	<p><b>Building Individual and Institutional Research Capacity: Grants, Contracts, and Dissemination</b></p> <p>The session addresses the role of historically black colleges in universities in producing empirical research and academic scholarship. An overview will be provided of changes to the Carnegie-ranking system, funded research, program development, grantsmanship, patents, and publication. Attention will be given to (1) institutional improvement and innovation; (2) intermediary capacity building to lead and sustain improvements; (3) community and regional economic development partnerships; and (4) reorienting the narratives surrounding HBCUs toward public impact on social and economic mobility outcomes. Participants in this session will benefit from insights and best practices shared by research experts as it relates to grant strategy, dissemination, as well as innovative perspectives on the future of solutions-oriented research. Participants will also have an opportunity to learn more about upcoming federal, foundation, and TMCF grants.</p>
Economic Development	<p><b>The Four C's that Strengthen Institutional Alignment with Economic Development Opportunities</b></p> <p>We all realize that it is not enough to assess and evaluate. Still, we must ensure that our efforts are purposeful and intentional if we want to improve programs and services as our desired outcomes continuously. So, how do we do this? It begins with building interconnected collaborations at our institutions to provide more economic development opportunities to support our students. Join us in this session as we dissect the methods and steps one institution has documented as efficient and effective ways to successfully demonstrate Communiversy and build a culture of partnerships on its campus. Learn the fours C's that led to one institution enhancing institutional alignment with and improving economic development with all stakeholders.</p>

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<b>STEAM</b>	<p><b>From Ideas to Words to Awards: A Proposal Writing Workshop</b>                  Preparing applications for federal funding is a regular part of HBCU administrators and faculty members' portfolios. But how does one turn an idea into a proposal that has a strong chance at receiving funding? During this interactive workshop session, NEH invites participants to brainstorm their ideas and draft proposals. Attendees will receive hands-on, individualized feedback on project ideas and proposal drafts. Because knowing what grant opportunity to apply for is critical, staff members will help identify appropriate funding opportunities, particularly those designed for HBCU faculty and staff, and discuss pre-application resources. Attendees will leave with a greater understanding of effective proposal writing and tips and strategies to ensure that they write stand-out applications and receive tips and strategies to craft winning grant proposals.</p>
<b>Infrastructure</b>	<p><b>Leveraging the Initiative: We Work FOR You...Literally! (HBCU Edition)</b>                  This session will be targeted to HBCU faculty and staff. A panel consisting of the Initiative Team and a few federal partners will discuss how to leverage the Initiative to achieve their goals and access the resources they need for their Institution's success. In the session, each team member will detail their role in the Initiative and describe how that relates to the school's needs. We will share success stories from key federal partner to highlight how a successful interaction with the Initiative can lead to a success story (like receiving a federal grant or some type of federal support). Ideally this session will be held before the Federal Agency Meet and Greet, so HBCUs know how to best approach federal partners.</p>
<b>Students and Emerging Leaders</b>	<p><b>The Art of Active Listening</b>                  In communication there is a sender and a receiver... too many people are sending and too few are receiving. Research suggests that deals are lost, relationships suffer, sales are lost, customers are unhappy sometimes because of our poor listening skills. Since communication is an everyday occurrence, you owe it to yourself to invest in strategies to enhance your speaking and listening skills. In this session we will do an exercise to help develop active listening skills.</p>
<b>Executive Leadership</b>	<p><b>Money in Motion: Top Strategies to Secure Funding from Foundations, Corporate America, and the Federal Government</b>                  This session is designed to equip HBCU leaders with essential strategies for acquiring funding from diverse sources. The speakers will explore innovative approaches to navigating the funding landscape, crafting compelling proposals and the importance of relationship-building with potential funders. Moreover, the workshop will provide insights into the unique considerations and requirements associated with each funding source, enabling HBCU leaders to develop targeted and effective funding strategies. Through an interactive discussion format, participants will gain practical skills and knowledge to drive successful fundraising initiatives at their institutions.</p>

11:15 a.m. – 11:25 a.m.      Networking and Transition to Breakouts

11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.      **Concurrent Workshops 2**

Tracks	Title & Description
<b>Career Pathways and Economic Mobility</b>	<p><b>Diverse Journeys, Shared Destinations: Collaborative Programs for Global Career-Readiness</b>                      Join us in shaping a future where every student, regardless of background, thrives on the global stage. This session will explore how the participation of Black students enriches perspectives, fosters cultural diversity, and enhances program impact. These innovative strategies benefit not only students but also partnering institutions and third-party implementers by broadening perspectives, expanding networks, and promoting inclusive practices.</p>
<b>Research and Innovation</b>	<p><b>Navigating Tomorrow: The power of visual storytelling and safeguarding intellectual heritage</b>                      Understanding the Black experience in all its complexity has perhaps never been more urgent to our global conversation than it is right now. And while DE&amp;I programs and resources are being deprioritized across the country, the importance of preserving Black history, protecting intellectual property and disseminating the rich legacy and culture of HBCUs on a global scale is</p>

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	<p>crucial for the next generations. Join Getty Images in a discussion about their Photo Archive Grants Program for HBCUs in 2021 to support the digitization of thousands of archival photos with HBCU’s archivists, historians, faculty and students to build practical workflows, increase access to unique imagery and raise awareness of rarely seen historical events.</p>
<b>Economic Development</b>	<p><b>Benefits of Collaboration Between State and Federal Bipartisan Legislative HBCU</b>        In consideration of the ongoing challenges HBCUs face pertaining to underfunding, campus safety, and efforts to attain elevated institutional research status, now more than ever, advocacy in the form of collaboration between state and federal bipartisan HBCU caucuses is essential to ensuring the continued success of these institutions. This session will feature an informative panel discussion focused on the benefits of state-level HBCU caucuses and how the collaboration between state and federal HBCU caucuses can enhance legislative support for institutional advancement.</p>
<b>STEAM</b>	<p><b>We’re Not New to This...We’re True to This: Building Black Artificial Intelligence Futures with HBCU Humanities and Social Science Faculty</b>        This panel session explores the pivotal role HBCU Humanities and Social Sciences faculty play in, first, establishing the ethical and discipline-specific frameworks for how artificial intelligent policy, data, opportunities, and products take shape and, secondly, how these disciplines can root themselves into an emerging field of study entitled, Public Interest Technology (PIT). PIT examines how emerging technologies like artificial intelligence affect the public interest, through a social justice lens and, for this session specifically, how artificial intelligence affects the lived experiences of Black communities and how HBCUs can lead in this new space. Panelists will make a strong case for why HBCU Humanities and Social Sciences faculty are the precursors of public interest technology and how collectively HBCUs can be at the forefront of building a movement for an ethical artificial intelligent future for Black communities. Panelists will include HBCU provosts, faculty, and national foundation leaders.</p>
<b>Infrastructure</b>	<p><b>The Necessity, Challenges and Successes of Establishing a Secure HBCU Campus</b>        Recently, HBCUs have been targeted by bomb threats, armed assailants, and felt disconnected from public agencies that are meant to provide security and support. As a result, HBCUs face unique challenges in keeping their students and facilities safe guarded. This session will include a brief description of CP3 and its resources highlighting the partnerships that have been established with HBCUs. Several universities will discuss the need for threat management programs, obstacles to creating the programs, and what success looks like.</p>
<b>Students and Emerging Leaders</b>	<p><b>Building Bridges: Engaging Alumni through Personal Advisory Boards for Student Success</b>        The workshop will underscore the critical importance of personal advisory boards in offering mentorship, industry insights, and experiential learning opportunities directly from the alumni community to students. By implementing this innovative approach, HBCUs can unlock unprecedented opportunities for their students, fostering a vibrant ecosystem of support that bridges academic achievement with professional success. Participants will leave equipped with the knowledge to harness the untapped potential of alumni networks, thereby propelling student achievement and reinforcing the legacy of excellence within the HBCU community.</p>
<b>Executive Leadership</b>	<p><b>HBCUs as History, Arts and Culture Leaders in Their Communities</b>        HBCU leadership are invited to an intimate, executive-level session with leaders from arts/culture/history/humanities federal agencies to discuss HBCUs as anchor institutions and the role they play in their communities. HBCU leaders will hear how the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, Department of Education, Institute of Museum and Library Services, Library of Congress, National Endowment for the Arts, and National Endowment for the Humanities can support HBCUs as valued partners and leaders in their communities, including a discussion around how HBCUs help build the civic infrastructure of a community. They also will learn about grants and other opportunities offered by these agencies, such as student internships and special projects that highlight the rich history and culture of HBCUs.</p>

12:30 p.m. – 1 p.m.

Networking and Transition to Lunch

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1 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

#### *Luncheon: A Crystal Ball for HBCUs: Navigating the Future with Artificial Intelligence*

This luncheon will feature a keynote speaker who is a leader in the AI industry and provide a forward-looking perspective on how AI can be leveraged to propel HBCUs into a new era of excellence and innovation.

2:30 p.m. – 2:59 p.m.

Transition to Breakouts

3 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

#### *Concurrent Workshops 3*

7 Tracks	Title & Description
Career Pathways and Economic Mobility	<p><b>Good Jobs for All: Partnering with HBCUs to Build a More Inclusive Federal Workforce for People with Disabilities</b></p> <p>Join a conversation about how Disability and Career Services on Black College Campuses can highlight the unique opportunities of inclusive federal job and internship programs, especially for students of color with disabilities. Learn how to navigate accommodation requests while seeking and obtaining work. This session recognizes the importance of diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility in the federal workforce and encourages staff and students from HBCUs to utilize all available resources when considering a career in federal service.</p>
Research and Innovation	<p><b>Moving the Needle for HBCU R&amp;D/Commercialization</b></p> <p>In a collaborative effort, UNCF, TMCf and Google, the Applied Research Institute for Mathematical and Computational Sciences (ARI) serves as a partnership-driven platform that will build research capacity and infrastructure across a consortium of HBCUs, and support tech-transfer and commercialization activities. ARI's research focus includes artificial intelligence/machine learning, cybersecurity, fintech, and other areas aligned with the tech industry.</p>
Economic Development	<p><b>Impact Investing - How Can HBCU's become pace setters in this space?</b></p> <p>Develop a working knowledge of the investment strategies, terminology (and jargon) to become better advocates in this important area of empowerment, community and economic development and wealth building in the Black community.</p>
STEAM	<p><b>Executive HBCU Space Lab: Reflecting on Success and Exploring New Horizons in Federal Space Contracting</b></p> <p>This session is designed for HBCU executives, leaders and stakeholders who are committed to advancing HBCU participation engagement in federal space contracting. It will reflect on key milestones, successes, and lessons insights from the past year; delve into current federal space contracting opportunities in space; and engage in provide an opportunity for collaborative planning to set priorities and actionable plans for the forthcoming upcoming year.</p>
Infrastructure	<p><b>Active Shooter Attack Prevention and Preparedness (ASAPP) Training</b></p> <p>The ASAPP Training was developed by the FBI to provide the public with the understanding of the dangers of active shooter incidents and the steps individuals can take to protect themselves and others through the concepts of Run, Hide, Fight. This two-hour training focuses on situational awareness and empowering people to develop plans to stay safe. Stop The Bleed techniques (use of pressure and deployment of tourniquets) will also be taught.</p>
Students and Emerging Leaders	<p><b>Advancing Justice Around the World Through Diplomacy</b></p> <p>This interactive session including a panel and tabletop exercise covers how future leaders can make a global impact in a variety of ways, including providing access to justice in remote areas for marginalized people, holding public officials accountable, promoting citizen-oriented community policing, providing police reform that respects human rights, combatting maritime and natural resource crimes, and promoting women in law enforcement and justice sector. Panel members from the State Department's Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL) will discuss how they collaborate across the federal government to use diplomacy and</p>



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	foreign assistance in promoting access to justice, protection of natural resources, law enforcement reform, and more around the world. Panelists will also speak to how individuals can work for the Department of State and various hiring/recruitment mechanisms. After the brief, panelists will facilitate a tabletop exercise to engage the audience in finding innovative solutions to a challenging scenario.
<b>Executive Leadership</b>	<p><b>HBCUs Cannot Miss Opportunities, so This is How We Prepare: A Didactic Session to Teach HBCU leaders how to Leverage Government Opportunities (90 Mins)</b></p> <p>There is nothing more heartbreaking than a squandered opportunity, a missed prospect or a shot not taken. This session is a pragmatic, step-by-step, no fluff, painstakingly honest session to understand how HBCUs are missing opportunities and how they can prepare to meet the moment. There will specific discussion on how HBCU leaders can increase their school's efficacy in responding to major opportunities related to government grants and partnerships.</p>

3 p.m. – 5 p.m.

#### ***HBCU Executive Space Lab: Reflecting on Success and Exploring New Horizons in Federal Space Contracting***

This session is designed for HBCU executives, leaders and stakeholders who are committed to advancing HBCU engagement in federal space contracting. It will reflect on the milestones, successes and lessons from the past year; dive into current federal space contracting opportunities; and provide an opportunity for collaborative planning to set priorities and actionable plans for the upcoming year.

4:30 p.m. -5:30 p.m.

#### ***Exhibit Hall***

4:45 p.m. – 5:45 p.m.

#### ***IWG Cluster Meetings***

Interagency Working Group (IWG) Clusters are flexible, adaptable, interconnected and broadly applicable. They have the potential to create efficiencies within the Federal system, as clusters are an effective tool by which to organize collaborative and actionable leadership to implement Executive Order (EO) 14041. By aligning Federal system assets and creating shared strategies and tactics, agencies develop and implement programs and strategic initiatives to improve the competitiveness of HBCUs and the people and communities they principally serve. Come to the cluster meeting to experience their work and meet the members.

#### **Campus Safety and Resilience**

To improve and increase the HBCU campus preparedness and resilience through the provision of grants, emergency management curriculum development and training the faculty, staff, and students.

#### **Human Capital (Student Engagement, Law & Process)**

Committed to working together, combine our resources to advance & maximize programs and initiatives around the area of Human Capital as it pertains to student engagement and law & process.

#### **Economic Development**

Promotes the economic actions of HBCUs and their environments by sharing information regarding funding opportunities and building capacity to access federal resources & engage in market based public private partnerships.

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#### **Federal Funding Opportunities**

Identifying and implementing interagency strategies to improve the conditions under which HBCUs compete for the full range of Federal opportunities. The cluster is focused on 3 pillars: 1) Policy; 2) Grants and Cooperative Agreements; and 3) Contracting.

#### **SMART HBCU**

Vision of the broadband cluster is to work collaboratively across federal agencies to ensure the availability, access, and adoption of ICT in general and broadband specifically to ensure the competitiveness of HBCU anchor institutions and inclusive competitiveness of their host communities.

#### **STEM**

With efforts toward recruitment, assistance, and retention of talent and interest in STEM, this group's contributions will prioritize leading students to leverage real world practices from volunteerism and explored options to expand their knowledge.

6 p.m. – 8 p.m.

#### ***Excellence in Innovation and Collaboration Acknowledgements***

Excellence in Innovation and Collaboration Acknowledgements recognize individuals and organizations whose actions strengthen the education and economic competitiveness of HBCUs and the students, people, and communities they primarily serve. They are designed to encourage and honor public- and private-sector partners, students, faculty, and administrators at HBCUs who demonstrate commitment and notable contributions to the WHIHBCUs and the innovation and competitiveness of HBCUs.

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#### Tuesday, September 17 • SCHEDULE AT-A-GLANCE- DAY 2

8:30 a.m.

*Exhibit Hall*

9 a.m. – 10 a.m.

#### *Where Excellence & Opportunity Meet: The Administration & HBCUs*

The Biden-Harris Administration has made HBCUs a priority – investing over \$16 billion in our institutions, more than any other administration ever. This convening of Administration leaders will delve into how five federal agencies have carried President Biden’s call to invest in HBCUs and what’s to come in the next fiscal year.

10:01 a.m. - 10:15 a.m.

Transition to Breakouts

10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

#### *Concurrent Workshops 4*

Tracks	Objective
Career Pathways and Economic Mobility	<p><b>Advancing Black Education and Economic Mobility by Leveraging Registered Apprenticeships</b></p> <p>Envision a future where graduates from your HBCU seamlessly transition into careers that not only align with their aspirations but also lead them toward economic prosperity. By embracing Registered Apprenticeships, HBCUs can bolster their academic programs through intentional engagement. Aligning your curriculum with registered apprenticeships can advance prospective student recruitment visibility nationally, local reverse student recruitment from industry, program retention rates, and invaluable experiential learning and mentorship opportunities. Students gain access to industry-approved curriculum and the current technology related to their future occupations. Additionally, alignment will allow your institution to attract increased employer investments, access braided funding opportunities, and contribute to the growth of your local economy. Learn strategies for positioning your institution as a trailblazer in innovative programs, enhancing national visibility and attracting prospective students nationwide.</p>
Research and Innovation	<p><b>Connecting the Ecosystem: How Innovation Works in Defense</b></p> <p>This panel will discuss the many ways that increasingly organizations across the DOD work together to invite Industry, Academia, and Investors to solve many problems that support national security and our military and their families. With representatives from the Dept of the Air Force (DAF), Defense Innovation Unit (DIU), National Security Innovation Network (NSIN), and Small Business Administration (SBA), the discussion will include information about how to get started in defense, how the Ecosystem works, and the many benefits of landing a government contract.</p>
Economic Development	<p><b>E.A.S.E on down the road with 8(a) Government Contracting!</b></p> <p>Bowie State University, in collaboration with the Bowie Business Innovation Center (BIC)'s has developed a Center of Excellence for 8(a) Government Contracting program, which is a new initiative designed to be a catalyst for business development that will fuel jobs and economic growth in the communities served by HBCUs. Come and learn the critical details about two *New* innovative pilot programs designed to reinforce the ability of HBCUs to win federal government contracts presented by the General Services Administration and Bowie State University.</p>

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<b>STEAM</b>	<p><b>Increasing the Pipeline of HBCU Talent in Alternative Investments</b>                      For Business Deans, Faculty and Students</p> <p>The alternatives asset class – which includes private equity, private credit, real estate, infrastructure, hedge funds, and more - is among the fastest growing asset classes across investment management, and one of the most lucrative career paths for recent college graduates. This conversation aims to address the underrepresentation of students from HBCUs in alternative investments. AltFinance partners with the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania to provide a best-in-class virtual platform available for all HBCU students with academic coursework, experiential programming and community-building opportunities that seek to broaden exposure to and increase representation in the alternative investment industry.</p>
<b>Infrastructure</b>	<p><b>Maintaining Traditions &amp; Saving Money</b></p> <p>With the tremendous costs of supporting educational institutions today, wouldn't it be wonderful if there was a program that could help Historical Black Colleges &amp; Universities maintain educational traditions, while saving money too? Well, there is, and it's called the Federal Surplus Donation Program. This program, a 'partnership' between GSA and the State Agencies for Surplus Property (SASPs), nationwide, provides non-profit and public organizations, including schools, with good property to perform their missions, at a minimal outlay. Just think. No more agonizing over budgets, scrounging for resources, and hoping to save programs, when there is a mechanism that can help support services, supplement budgets, and even expand projects—all, with everything from computers and vehicles to scientific devices and recreational equipment. Yes. There is a wonderful way to maintain traditions, raise the bar and lead the world . . . This is it!</p>
<b>Students and Emerging Leaders</b>	<p><b>A Path Forward Through Imposter Syndrome</b></p> <p>Since its inception by Clance and Imes in the late 1970s, the experience of Imposter Syndrome has plagued scholars, students, and employees alike; in particular, underrepresented groups in STEM fields. Even in the most diverse and inclusive workspaces, feelings of not belonging and inadequacy sneak in despite evidence that points to the competency of those experiencing this common phenomenon. In this interactive workshop, we will discuss what it is like to experience these debilitating feelings, explore contributing factors, as well as the science behind the syndrome, and learn ways to mitigate external factors that encourage its presence in our lives.</p>
<b>Executive Leadership</b>	<p><b>Securing Tomorrow Together: Enhancing National Security Partnerships between HBCUs and Federal Agencies</b></p> <p>Join us for an interactive workshop featuring HBCU presidents and FBI Special Agents in Charge (SACs) from regions with prominent HBCUs like Miles College and Morgan State University. This session explores actionable strategies for enhancing partnerships between HBCUs and federal agencies. Participants will gain valuable knowledge on fostering collaboration in areas such as national security, talent development, and academic engagement. Discover how these partnerships can drive economic development, advance career pathways, and promote innovation within the HBCU community.</p>

11:45 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Transition to Luncheon

12:00 p.m. – 1:45 p.m.

**Luncheon- Safeguarding Democracy through HBCUs**

Who gets the Right to Vote? You do! Join us for an enlightening keynote luncheon on the crucial role of voting rights in America. Our esteemed speaker will highlight the path to voting rights, current challenges, and the impact of voter suppression in our communities. Let's ensure every voice is heard and every vote counts.

1:45 p.m. – 2:15 p.m.

Networking and Transition to Breakouts

## Raising the Bar: Where Excellence and Opportunity Meet

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### SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

2:15 p.m. – 3:45 p.m.

#### Concurrent Workshops 5

Tracks	Objective
Career Pathways and Economic Mobility	<p><b>Finding Your Purpose: How National Service Creates Career Pathways</b></p> <p>AmeriCorps has such a diversity of programs that you can always find something that fits your desired path. Are you looking to carry your passion for and commitment to service into your career? Do you mentor, coach, or advise young people on their academic and professional decisions? National service is an excellent way to kickstart a rewarding and impactful career. Join us to learn how a term of domestic service with AmeriCorps can help participants gain entry to meaningful employment. We'll discuss intergenerational trends among working adults, benefits of working in the public service sector, and how AmeriCorps programs position their alum for long term success.</p>
Research and Innovation	<p><b>Leveraging AI to Enhance Your HBCU Sponsored Research</b></p> <p>With today's advancements in new technology including artificial intelligence and machine learning, HBCUs can reduce their vetting time and improve their submission processes while making data-based decisions when approaching funding opportunities. A strong sponsored programs office is key to long-term sustainability for any institution. By layering an institution's capability statement with a potential research funding opportunity, HBCUs can get a better sense of which opportunities to apply for. HBCUs can also understand gaps that may exist in their research infrastructure in comparison to other institutions.</p>
Economic Development	<p><b>Benefits of HBCUs engaging with Local SBA District Offices</b></p> <p>This workshop will provide an overview of SBA programs and how HBCUs can immediately engage with their local SBA district office to promote small business growth and economic opportunities at their institutions and the communities they serve. This partnership can include requesting speakers from the SBA district office and SBA resource partners as well as sharing information, data, and other areas of mutual interest.</p>
STEAM	<p><b>Empowering Diversity: HBCUs Leading the Charge in STEAM for Global Impact</b></p> <p>This session aims to explore strategies for HBCUs to effectively partner with USAID to ensure diverse representation in international development initiatives. The discussion will focus on opportunities with USAID, leveraging strengths within the HBCU community, building sustainable partnerships, enhancing student engagement, overcoming challenges, and empowering diverse voices. By the end of the session, participants will gain insights into how HBCUs can effectively partner with USAID to promote diversity and inclusivity in STEAM fields, thereby contributing to more innovative and sustainable solutions to global challenges. We must learn together to understand what success looks like moving forward.</p>
Infrastructure	<p><b>Enhancing Institutional Partnerships: A Pathway for Presidents/Senior Level Administrators</b></p> <p>Federal Student Aid's Chief Operating Officer will lead a conversation regarding opportunities and initiatives that provide new pathways for engagement between Federal Student Aid (FSA) and Historically Black Colleges and Universities participating in the Title IV Student Financial Assistance programs. Emphasis will be placed on the role that President/Senior level administrators can play in providing feedback regarding current as well as new initiatives. Senior level staff from the U.S. Department of Education and Office of Post-Secondary Education will also share updates regarding Better FAFSA – Better Future, opportunities for partnership between HBCUs and FSA, and other initiatives. Senior level staff from the Office of Post-Secondary Education will also provide a regulatory update. The Minority Serving and Under Resourced Schools Division team will provide an update on opportunities for assistance and support at the Presidential/Senior level and training opportunities that are available to institutional aid administrators/staff.</p>
Students and Emerging Leaders	<p><b>Paramount Presents: The Storytellers Lab, an HBCU Initiative</b></p> <p>Paramount's Storytellers Lab is a 9-month program for HBCU students that focuses on building media experience, networking and providing access to the industry. Learn more about the program's mission and hear from current participants on the impact its already having. We'll discuss the vital role HBCU Presidents and Senior Leaders play in supporting the initiative, underscoring the importance of strong partnerships in creating meaningful change in higher education. Attendees will leave with a greater appreciation for the power of collaboration and storytelling in amplifying underrepresented voices.</p>
Executive Leadership	<p><b>Empowering HBCU Students through AI: Unleashing Potential in the Age of Innovation</b></p> <p>Dive into the future with our dynamic workshop designed for HBCU communities, where artificial intelligence (AI) isn't just a buzzword—it's a key to unlocking unprecedented opportunities. Through immersive demonstrations and interactive discussions, you'll witness firsthand how AI can revolutionize learning, career readiness, and research. This isn't just about keeping pace with technology; it's about setting the pace. By integrating AI into HBCU curricula, we're not just enhancing education; we're redefining it. You'll leave not just inspired but equipped—with concrete strategies and resources to ignite AI initiatives that propel your students and institutions into a new era of innovation. Join us to be part of this transformative journey, where HBCUs lead the charge in shaping a tech-empowered future.</p>

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**4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.**

***Federal Agency Meet & Greet***

Participants will have the opportunity to meet representatives from the Initiative's federal partner agencies in this casual networking setting. Learn about the current program offerings and initiatives underway to advance educational equity, excellence, and economic opportunity in partnership with HBCUs at over 30+ federal agencies.

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### SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

#### Wednesday, September 18 • SCHEDULE AT-A-GLANCE- DAY 3

8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. *Exhibit Hall Open*

9 a.m. – 10 a.m. *Concurrent Workshops 6*

Tracks	Objective
Career Pathways and Economic Mobility	<b>Illuminating Entrepreneurial Pathways in the Life Sciences</b> Join us as we engage, educate and empower African American and other underrepresented and minoritized students, postdoctoral fellows and early career investigators to apply the principles of design thinking and Lean Startup in their scientific work and to consider bio-entrepreneurship as a viable opportunity.
Research and Innovation	<b>Unleashing Quantum Information Science at Your HBCU/HBCC</b> Engage in a panel discussion with leaders from Brookhaven National Lab, industry, HBCC/HBCUs to learn how R&D within quantum information science can help build economic wealth within underserved communities.
Economic Development	<b>Seize the Opportunity: Uncover Your USDOT Funding Potential</b> In 2024, the US Department of Transportation (USDOT) published its ONEDOT HBCU/MSI Strategic Plan: Elevating Excellence: A Visionary Blueprint for DOT-HBCU & MSI Collaboration in Transportation Advancement. The inherent goal of this strategic plan is to increase the number of contracts, grants (non-research), workforce development opportunities, and cooperative agreements with HBCUs and MSIs. This session aims to strategically guide HBCU Administrators, Faculty, and Staff on alternative funding opportunities available at the USDOT beyond research funding. The panelists feature senior program directors, procurement, and grant leaders from various USDOT operating administrations, key private sector, and professional organizations.
STEAM	<b>Artificial Intelligence: Is it Friend, Foe, Hallucinator, Terminator, or Student Super-Power Enabler?</b> It can be all five. Artificial intelligence (AI) today is around every corner. There is good AI and AI you don't want doing your math, writing your paper, thesis or case. YouGov.US, "on AI in Education, 61% of respondents reported it is very or somewhat necessary for K-12 students to learn AI-related skills for their future careers." Setting the expectation every university student is already being educated and staying current on AI. What is your HBCU's strategy on how you will engage students on learning and using artificial intelligence? What if you could use IBM's updated content to keep you student ahead of the AI skills knowledge curve? Are you Caught Up, yes Usher's version related to AI Skills? Join us on how to get started and/or make a few fast moves in our hands-on session!
Infrastructure	<b>Empowering HBCUs through Contract Technical Training: A Collaborative Initiative by Deloitte and GSA</b> Join us for 'Empowering HBCUs through Contract Technical Training: A Collaborative Initiative by Deloitte and GSA'. This session is designed to strengthen the contract technical skills of HBCUs, providing them with the tools necessary to effectively compete in the federal contracting landscape. Attendees will benefit from hands-on technical training for federal contracting, including mock proposals and walk-throughs. The session will also host open discussions, providing a platform for participants to share experiences, ask questions, and learn from each other. To supplement the learning experience, attendees will receive comprehensive federal contracting guides, offering step-by-step instructions and insights into contract opportunities. Don't miss this opportunity to enhance your contracting skills, network with peers, and gain a competitive edge in the federal contracting arena.

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<b>Executive Leadership</b>	<p><b>HBCUs “Raise the Bar: Lead the World” for Broadband Expansion and U.S. Workforce Development</b></p> <p>High-Speed, robust broadband and connectivity to state, national and international education and research networks are necessary for Historically Black Colleges and Universities’ (HBCU) digital equity, sustainability and for preparing a workforce for 4IR jobs in critical and emerging technologies. This session will focus on synergies between state digital equity plans and CMC awards to assess potential ROI. Awardees will share early impacts that 1) improve connectivity on campus; 2) impact workforce development; 3) impact digital literacy in anchor communities; and 4) leverage other federal grants.</p>
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10:15 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.

#### Concurrent Workshops 7

Tracks	Objective
<b>Career Pathways and Economic Mobility</b>	<p><b>Amplifying Excellence in HBCU Educator Preparation: Exploring Innovative Practices and Impactful Outcomes</b></p> <p>Join us for a captivating panel discussion with esteemed authors and researchers as panelists, whose work has contributed significantly to the advancement of HBCU Educator Preparation Programs (EPPs). Through this engaging presentation, we will delve into the groundbreaking practices, transformative research, and remarkable achievements of HBCU Colleges of Education and Educator Preparation programs.</p>
<b>Economic Development</b>	<p><b>Increasing HBCU Impact: Building Collaborative Relationships with Financial Institutions</b></p> <p>Join the White House Initiative on HBCUs’ Economic Development Cluster (EDC) for an in-depth discussion about economic inclusion and community engagement strategies to establish partnerships between banks and HBCUs. This session will provide a broad overview of how HBCUs can engage in economic development opportunities with banks and community development financial institutions (CDFIs) to expand community and economic development. HBCUs that are interested in collaborating with banks and CDFIs will have a unique opportunity to hear from industry representatives about collaborative opportunities between HBCUs and financial institutions and participate in matchmaking. The panelists will share promising practices on how their financial institutions are currently collaborating with HBCUs and what they look for in a successful partnership. This includes leveraging their resources to provide internship and career placement opportunities in the financial services industry. Additionally, EDC members will highlight the HBCU Economic Development profiles tool.</p>
<b>STEAM</b>	<p><b>Bridging the Gap: Building Cybersecurity Leaders at HBCUs</b></p> <p>The Center of Academic Excellence in Cybersecurity (CAE-C) wants to encourage HBCUs to pursue a CAE designation. Institutions that receive a CAE-C designation have met the rigorous requirements set forth by the sponsor of the program, the National Security Agency (NSA). The NSA awards CAE-C designations to institutions that commit to producing cybersecurity professionals that will reduce vulnerabilities in our national infrastructure. This session will provide a CAE Program Overview, the Application Process, and the Benefits of CAE Status (including full scholarships for students, institution grants, industry credibility, etc.). There are currently 17 HBCUs that are designated as a CAE out of the over 450 institutions that are designated.</p>
<b>Research and Innovation</b>	<p><b>WeHBSeeU- How HBCUs are Forging a Bright Future in the STEM Research Ecosystem</b></p> <p>This session, hosted by the U.S. National Science Foundation (NSF) and Dr. Erin Lynch, President of the Quality Education for Minorities Network (QEM) and an NSF HBCU-UP Principal Investigator, will feature a screening of the upcoming documentary project- WeHBSeeU TV. The plenary will feature an episode from the docuseries Innovation Unveiled, entitled: "Innovation Unveiled: Building a Better Future," which chronicles HBCUs efforts to strengthen their research infrastructures. The screening will be followed by a panel discussion of HBCU and Federal leaders on the challenges currently facing our institutions and the contributions that HBCUs are making each day to the success of a global STEM research ecosystem.</p>



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Infrastructure	<p><b>Empowering HBCUs through Contract Technical Training: A Collaborative Initiative by Deloitte and GSA</b>                  This session is designed to strengthen the contract technical skills of HBCUs, providing them with the tools necessary to effectively compete in the federal contracting landscape. Attendees will benefit from hands-on technical training for federal contracting, including mock proposals and walk-throughs. The session will also host open discussions, providing a platform for participants to share experiences, ask questions, and learn from each other. To supplement the learning experience, attendees will receive comprehensive federal contracting guides, offering step-by-step instructions and insights into contract opportunities. Don't miss this opportunity to enhance your contracting skills, network with peers, and gain a competitive edge in the federal contracting arena.</p>
Students and Emerging Leaders	<p><b>Navigating the Transition: Leveraging Tech-Driven Government Fellowships to Maximize Transferable Skills and Personal Brand for Career Success</b>                  Through engaging discussions and practical insights, attendees will learn how transferable skills can be leveraged in tech roles, while also discovering strategies for establishing a compelling personal brand aligned with the tech sector. Furthermore, our panelists will share their experiences of how fellowship opportunities provided invaluable resources, networks, and skill development opportunities, ultimately facilitating their career growth and advancement in the tech industry.</p>
Executive Leadership	<p><b>What You Need to Know</b>                  HBCU leaders are constantly inundated with updates and opportunities that can tremendously impact their students, faculty, and campus community. We're bringing together several initiatives that you should be aware of to learn more about the opportunities that they have.</p>

12:30 p.m.

Transition to Luncheon

12:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

***HBCUs Raising the Bar Closing Luncheon***

Join us for the closing session of the Annual National HBCU Week Conference. This luncheon will reflect on the key themes and highlights of the conference, celebrating the strides made in education, innovation and leadership at HBCUs.

3 p.m.- 5 p.m.

Multi-Cluster Meeting

### Post- Conference

#### Thursday, September 19 • SCHEDULE AT-A-GLANCE- DAY 4

10:30 a.m.- 3:30 p.m.

***President's Board of Advisors on HBCUs Fall Advisory Board Meeting***

**Liberty Ballroom**

In support of President Biden's Executive Order 14041, the meeting will include key briefings from senior federal officials sharing updates on the Biden-Harris Administration's educational, economic and workforce development opportunities for the HBCU community; and updates from the Boards four subcommittees: Research: HBCU Preservation & Growth; Infrastructure; and Career Pathways and Financial Support.



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