

Black Colleges

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Commission on Civil Rights released its own report, "The Educational Effectiveness of Historically Black Colleges and Universities."

The report listed some HBCU challenges and triumphs. "Though only about 20 percent of African-American college students attend HBCUs, 40 percent of all African-American engineers received their degrees from an HBCU. Similarly, of the top 21 undergraduate producers of African American science PhDs, 17 were HBCUs," the report noted. "The commission found Black students report more contact with HBCU faculty than Black students at non-HBCUs.

The study noted HBCUs have less funding, less support and fewer resources for students than comparable majority White schools. Despite having less money and fewer services, the report found no significant differences in academic success when measuring HBCUs against wealthier White institutions.

According to a 2006 National Center for Educational Statistics report, the short term economic impact of HBCUs is \$10 billion annually, providing more than 180,000 full and part-time jobs.

Dr. Harvey points to success stories such as Xavier University in New Orleans educating nearly 25 percent of the approximately 6,000 Black pharmacists practicing in the country, and ranking first in the nation in placing Black students in medical schools.

The nation's top producer of Black bachelors and doctorates in engineering is North Carolina A&T and nine HBCUs cumulatively graduate more than 30 percent of all Blacks who receive engineering degrees.

"This short list of some of the research and academic activities at HBCUs refutes the assertion that HBCUs are inferior. In fact, it illustrates that some HBCUs are superior," argues Dr. Harvey.

The role of HBCUs in 2020

Last year, the Obama administration allocated \$850 million over 10 years in federal

funding for HBCUs. William Foster IV believes the allocation is far less than what is needed.

"We're talking about \$85 million a year split between 105 schools. That is nowhere near enough money," said Mr. Foster, who started the HBCU Endowment Foundation in 2007 after discovering that only 20 percent of Black colleges and universities have endowments.

Dr. John Wilson, executive director of the White House Initiative on HBCUs, pointed out that government assistance goes beyond the budget outlays.

"We're aware that it is not enough but that's not all that we have or will do. However, the HBCU presidents were quite grateful for that assistance. But that amount was in addition to the Title III funds that HBCUs receive. Also a quarter of a billion dollars has funded research programs," said Dr. Wilson, a graduate of Morehouse College, a prestigious historically Black men's school in Atlanta.

Dr. Wilson was appointed in 2009 by President Obama, who signed an executive order last February renewing White House commitment to HBCUs.

The White House Initiative has five new tasks for HBCUs, including improving the identity, visibility, and distinctive capabilities and overall competitiveness of HBCUs; forging national dialogue regarding new HBCU programs and initiatives; improving the ability of HBCUs to remain fiscally secure institutions; elevating the public awareness of HBCUs; and encouraging public-private investments in HBCUs.

"HBCUs have made it possible for millions of people to achieve their dreams and gave so many young people a chance they never thought they'd have—a chance that nobody else would give them," said President Obama during a National HBCU Week reception at the White House with HBCU officials last September.

"We cannot reach that goal without HBCUs. We can't get there unless all of you are improving your graduation rates. We can't get there unless all of you are continuing to make the dream of a college education a reality for more students," said President Obama, speaking

to Black administrators and educators.

"In order for the nation to reach its educational goal of making America number one globally in college graduation, then HBCUs cannot be excluded," added Dr. Malveaux.

Schools need Black support

"African American people need to embrace, accept and celebrate HBCUs. Not just football games and the marching bands but the education. Alumni should donate back to their school. However, even if you did not attend an HBCU, if you're Black in America, you still should financially support our institutions," said Dr. Malveaux, who also just released a new book titled "Surviving and Thriving: 365 Facts in Black Economic History."

Mr. Carter agrees that financial support should be made by the community. "Some people don't give because they say they can't afford to give hundreds of dollars a year. But how about you pool your dollars with someone else and give together? We can't forget that's how we elected President Obama, by giving in small amounts across the country. We can do the same thing for HBCUs," said Mr. Carter.

Sean Walton, Jr., a law student at Capital University in Columbus, Ohio, has been able to connect HBCUs from across the country via his online community *TheFreshXPress.com*.

"The HBCU is the pulse of young Black America and that's what our site is all about. We not only provide thought-provoking content through virtual roundtables but we engage students on the yard. The HBCU culture is very much alive from the campus to cyberspace," said Mr. Walton, 25.

"We as HBCUs have to take responsibility to raise our games as well. We need to be a part of more cutting edge conversations regarding technology to engage our students," said Dr. Malveaux.

According to Mr. Walton, recent polls taken by his staff revealed "HBCUs are still popular because students have a more real relationship with professors who can keep it real about what Black people face in the world."

Torture

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jumpsuits wearing black hoods standing in front of the entrance to the Department of Justice," WAT member Frida Berrigan told *The Final Call*.

"We're holding signs that say: 'Broken Promises,' 'Broken Lives,' 'Broken Laws,' 'Shutdown Guantánamo,' and 'Justice Delayed is Justice Denied,'" she said.

At least 38 of the protestors went on an 11-day, liquids-only fast that ended Jan 22 in solidarity with the 38 prisoners who remain in custody despite the fact that they were cleared for release by the Bush administration.

"We're focused particularly though on the 38 men in Guantánamo who have been cleared for release, cleared of any wrongdoing, both by the Bush administration and by the Obama administration. There are 38 men there who could go home tomorrow, except for inaction of the Obama administration," Ms. Berrigan continued.

"There are a dozen Yemeni men in Guantánamo who are essentially being held hostage because of the thwarted Christmas attack, last Christmas carried out by somebody who had reportedly been trained in Yemen, so the Obama administration decided to send no more men back there, so they are victims of collective punishment.

"The list goes on and on of the individual men in Guantánamo who have been separated from their families, now many of them for nine years, who have not been able to communicate with their families at all and who have done nothing wrong, who are innocent," Ms. Berrigan said.

The group originally expected that two dozen of their members would be arrested Jan. 18 after Attorney General Eric Holder declined to break bread and enter dialogue with the group of fasters. Anti-torture activists read accounts of torture, sang songs and knelt in front of the entrance, effectively blockading it with orange clad bodies.

After two more hours, the group marched to the building's carport entrance, seeking to impede the departure of high level officials.

"If they cannot act on behalf of men unjustly and indefinitely detained in Guantánamo, who

have been cleared for release, then they are not working hard enough," Jerica Arents, a faster from Chicago said in a statement. "And so we decided that they should take a little extra time today and devote themselves to the actual practice of justice," she continued.

"I am here for Abdul Razak," said Christine Gaunt from Des Moines, Iowa. "He has been detained at Guantánamo for more than eight years. Judge Ian Urbina ordered him released into his courtroom more than two years ago and he is still detained. It makes me sick," she said.

Tom Chadwick, a faster from Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, remembered the men who are on hunger strike, "and are being forced in horrible and torturous ways."

"We came here at 2:00 o'clock this afternoon," Jan. 18, said Ms. Schietinger. "We stood out front and invited Eric Holder to come out and break bread with us. We said we would break our fast, which is in its ninth day, if he would come out and speak with us, and meet with us, and listen to us tell him why we think that he should be releasing the people at Guantánamo or charging them, and to please explain to us why he had not.

"We got nothing. We had a wall of police standing out front, but nobody came out to speak with us. So we came around finally, we were at the front entrance on Constitution (Ave.), but we came around to this side, but there are now, probably 20 people who are sitting down on the car park in orange jumpsuits, refusing to let anybody leave unless they come and speak with us," Ms. Schietinger said.

"We've been fasting for nine days now, in solidarity with the people who are still at Guantánamo, the men who are still there. Across the country there are 100 people fasting. I think there are 40 of us in DC."

"Fifty people, representing men in Guantánamo, are blocking the entrances to the Department of Justice, essentially saying, that if justice is not given to the men in Guantánamo, to the men held in Bagram and other U.S. detention facilities throughout Afghanistan, then the Justice Department should essentially shut down. It should shutter its doors. It should cease to exist, because it is not carrying out justice, it is not carrying out its mandate," said Ms. Berrigan.