



GEORGIA STATE SENATE SENATE RESEARCH OFFICE

204 Coverdell Legislative Office Building | 404.656.0015
18 Capitol Square SW
Atlanta, GA 30334

ELIZABETH HOLCOMB
DIRECTOR

FINAL REPORT OF THE HISTORICALLY BLACK COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES SENATE STUDY COMMITTEE

Committee Members

Senator Nikema Williams, Chair
District 39

Senator Tonya Anderson
District 43

Senator Gail Davenport
District 44

Senator Lester Jackson
District 2

Senator Valencia Seay
District 34

Senator Freddie Powell Sims
District 12

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COMMITTEE FOCUS, CREATION, AND DUTIES

The Senate Study Committee on Historically Black Colleges and Universities (Committee) was created by the adoption of Senate Resolution 977 during the 2018 Legislative Session. The following individuals were appointed by the President of the Senate to serve as members of this Committee:

- Senator Nikema Williams of the 39th – Chair
- Senator Tonya Anderson of the 43rd
- Senator Gail Davenport of the 44th
- Senator Lester Jackson of the 2nd
- Senator Valencia Seay of the 34th
- Senator Freddie Powell-Sims of the 12th

Pursuant to SR 977, the Committee's focus is to better understand the necessity, economic impact, and unique contributions of HBCUs in Georgia, as well as examine student outcomes, academic research, employee salaries, institution and student spending, and the multiplier effect of these factors.

The following legislative staff members were assigned to this Committee: Annie Downs of the Senate Press Office; Laurin Vonada of the Senate Research Office; Austin Trott of the Senate Budget and Evaluation Office; and Tarika Jackson, Administrative Assistant to Senator Williams.

The Committee held three meetings in total; one at the Coverdell Legislative Office Building in Atlanta, Georgia on September 11, 2018, one at Clark-Atlanta University in Atlanta, Georgia on October 23, 2018, and one at the Capitol in Atlanta, Georgia on December 31, 2018.

BACKGROUND

The Higher Education Act of 1965 defines a historically black college or university (HBCU) as:

Any historically black college or university that was established prior to 1964, whose principal missions was, and is, the education of black Americans, and that is accredited by a nationally recognized accrediting agency or association determined by the Secretary [of Education] to be a reliable authority as to the quality of training offered or is, according to such an agency or association, making reasonable progress toward accreditation.

According to the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), the primary federal entity for collecting and analyzing data related to education, the State of Georgia has ten HBCU's. They are as follows:

1. Albany State University – Albany, GA
2. Clark Atlanta University – Atlanta, GA
3. Fort Valley State University – Fort Valley, GA
4. Interdenominational Theological Center – Atlanta, GA
5. Morehouse College – Atlanta, GA
6. Morehouse School of Medicine – Atlanta, GA
7. Morris Brown College – Atlanta, GA¹
8. Paine College – Augusta, GA
9. Savannah State University – Savannah, GA
10. Spelman College – Atlanta, GA

Within the Georgia State Senate, all ten of Georgia's HBCUs are represented by Senators. The United Negro College Foundation (UNCF) found that Georgia's HBCUs generated \$1.3 billion in total economic impact² based on 2014 data. This estimate includes direct spending by HBCUs on faculty, employees, academic programs and operations and by students attending the institutions. Further, the UNCF study found that Georgia's HBCUs generate 12,040 jobs for local and regional economies.

¹ Morris Brown lost its accreditation in 2003, therefore it is not an accredited HBCU. However there are current efforts for the school to become reaccredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.

²https://www.uncf.org/wp-content/uploads/PDFs/fy_2018_budget_fact_sheets/HBCU_FactSht_Georgia_5-17D.pdf

COMMITTEE TESTIMONY AND FINDINGS

This section provides a brief summary of topics covered at each meeting, including the names and affiliations of individuals who were asked to provide testimony to the Committee. Although testimony has been condensed to ensure the report could be timely submitted, copies of all presentations and materials submitted to the Committee are kept on file in the Senate Research Office.

Meeting 1 – September 11, 2018

The first meeting was held at the Coverdell Legislative Office Building in Atlanta, Georgia on September 11, 2018. The meeting provided a general overview of HBCUs, their role in the education system, and the private and public partnerships that are available to HBCUs around the country. The following individuals provided testimony to the Committee:

- Laurin Vonada, Senate Research Office; and
- Pamela Cooper, Southeast Regional Coordinator for the National Alumni Association for Spelman College

Ms. Vonada presented on the different types of private and public partnerships available to HBCUs around the country. She presented that out of the twenty states with an HBCU, four states have a specific legislative program or initiative. They are as follows:

Florida

- *Historically Black College and University Library Program³ (Library Program)*
 - In 2010, the Florida Legislature implemented the *Library Program* which aims to enhance the quality of the libraries at the four HBCUs in the state.
 - The primary objectives of the *Library Program* are to increase each library's holdings by 500 to 1,000 books per year, increase the library use by students and faculty, and to enhance professional growth of librarians by providing in-service training.
 - The *Library Program* is administered by the Florida Department of Education and general revenue funds are used to purchase books and support the objectives.

Louisiana

- *Advisory Council on Historically Black Colleges and Universities (Council)*
 - In 2018, the Louisiana Legislature created the *Council* to strengthen the capacity of HBCUs ability to provide high quality education, increase opportunities for HBCUs to participate in and benefit from state programs, and ensure that Louisiana has the highest proportion of college graduates from HBCUs in the country.
 - The *Council* will be overseen by the Louisiana Board of Regents.

Ohio

- In Ohio, several commissions and programs are tasked with conducting outreach activities, when appropriate, that seek to include minorities within the following areas:
 - Ohio Co-Op Internship Program;
 - Ohio Third Frontier Commission;

³ Fla. Stat. Ann. §1006.59

- Economic Development Program; and
- Ohio Air Quality Development Authority.
- One of the outreach activities enumerated by law is to include minorities in the aforementioned programs by “identifying and partnering with HBCUs”.

Tennessee

- *Initiative on Historically Black Colleges and Universities⁴ (Initiative)*
 - In 2017, the Tennessee Legislature passed the *Initiative* as an organizational unit of the Tennessee Higher Education Commission.
 - The purpose of the *Initiative* is to provide oversight to help HBCUs provide a high quality education, increase opportunities for the institutions to participate in and benefit from state programs, and ensure that Tennessee has the highest proportion of college graduates from HBCUs in the country.

Further, Ms. Vonada presented that while not all states have a specific legislative initiative, HBCUs in other states have private partnerships with such organizations as the National Park Service, higher-education research institutions, and automotive companies.

Ms. Cooper shared that UNCF completed a nationwide study on the economic impact that HBCUs have on the communities in which they are located. The University of Georgia’s Terry College of Business helped prepare the report. The study looked at the total economic impact of HBCUs and further examined the total employment impact of HBCUs and the lifetime earnings for graduates of HBCUs.

Meeting 2 – October 23, 2018

The second meeting was held at Clark Atlanta University in Atlanta, Georgia on October 23, 2018. The discussion at the meeting included testimony about the programs occurring at Clark Atlanta and other HBCUs around the State. The Committee heard testimony from the following persons:

- Dr. Lucille Mauge, Clark Atlanta University (CAU), Acting President;
- Felicia McDade;
- Betsy Bates; and
- Susanna Baxter, President of Georgia Independent College Association (GICA); and
- Austin Trott, State Budget and Evaluation Office.

Dr. Mauge shared with the Committee that as of December 8, 2018 she will become the interim President of CAU. Dr. Mauge is a first generation college graduate from Southern Louisiana, a HBCU. She shared that CAU has the Cancer Research and Therapeutic Development focused on research in prostate cancer. Dr. Mauge shared that an issue they encounter with research expansion is funding for the center. She shared that CAU is working to secure some partnerships with Universities and Hospitals around the state to help with growing the research center. Dr. Mauge believes that CAU and other HBCUs are preparing students for the next steps in their careers.

⁴ Tenn. Code Ann. §49-7-217

Ms. McDade shared that she works with Honeywell. She shared that Spelman University starts at 6th grade recruiting students and increasing awareness of the University. Further, she shared her experience with the HBCU vertical market, a consortium of people dedicated to helping HBCUs grow enrollment and alumni giving, and tackle the changing landscape of marketing challenges. This gives persons the opportunity to engage in the industry to catapult initiative.

Ms. Bates shared that Morehouse School of Medicine programs primarily train from primary care and low-income patients. Morehouse School of Medicine partners with other state institutions to provide training to students around the state.

Ms. Baxter shared that GICA represents three HBCUs – Morehouse, Spelman, and CAU. She shared that 54% of students at HBCUs are Pell eligible. Ms. Baxter shared that HBCUs not only have an economic impact, but a social impact as well. Ms. Baxter shared that all three of these institutes participate in Georgia Awards, which tracks data from birth to graduation. Also, these institutions have an articulation agreement, started by the institutes, with the Technical College System of Georgia to pipeline employees. Ms. Baxter shared that none of the GICA HBCUs participate in the state dual-credit enrollment program.

Mr. Trott of the SBEO presented findings to the Committee on the funding for Georgia Public and Private HBCU funding. Also, SBEO presented information about HBCUs funding in several other southern states. These memorandums focus on state funding for the different schools which include Teaching Formula funding and state funded scholarships, such as Dual Enrollment Tuition Equalization Grants (TEG).

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the testimony and findings previously provided, the Committee makes the following recommendations:

The Committee recommends supporting the ongoing work of the ten Historically Black Colleges and Universities in the State of Georgia by creating an Advisory Council on Historically Black Colleges and Universities.

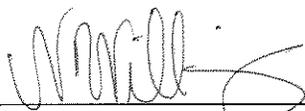
- The Committee recommends that the Advisory Council be based on the Louisiana model⁶ which was created to “strengthen the capacity of HBCUs ability to provide high quality education, increase opportunities for HBCUs to participate in and benefit from state programs, and ensure that Louisiana has the highest proportion of college graduates from HBCUs in the country.”
- However, the Committee recommends that the Georgia Advisory Council be tailored to fit the needs of the HBCUs in Georgia.

⁶ La. Stat. Ann. § 17:3138.7

SIGNATURE PAGE

Respectfully Submitted,

**FINAL REPORT OF THE HISTORICALLY BLACK COLLEGES AND
UNIVERSITIES STUDY COMMITTEE**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nikema Williams', written over a horizontal line.

**Honorable Nikema Williams, Chair
Senator, District 39**