



GEORGIA STATE SENATE

SENATE RESEARCH OFFICE

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

Hayley Williams
Interim Director

FINAL REPORT OF THE SENATE STUDY COMMITTEE ON EXCELLENCE, INNOVATION, AND TECHNOLOGY AT HISTORICALLY BLACK COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES (SECTION 5-2 OF SR 4 (2021))

Committee Members

Senator Sonya Halpern, Chairwoman
District 39

Senator Freddie Powell Sims
District 12

Senator Jason Anavitarte
District 31

Senator Valencia Seay
District 34

Senator Tonya Anderson
District 43

Senator Butch Miller
District 49

Prepared by the Senate Research Office, 2022

TABLE OF CONTENTS

STUDY COMMITTEE CREATION, FOCUS, AND DUTIES	2
BACKGROUND.....	3
SUMMARY OF TESTIMONY AND DISCUSSION.....	4
MEETING ONE – AUGUST 30, 2022 (GEORGIA STATE CAPITOL)	4
MEETING TWO – OCTOBER 3, 2022 (FORT VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY).....	7
MEETING THREE – OCTOBER 26, 2022 (CLARK ATLANTA UNIVERSITY).....	10
MEETING FOUR – DECEMBER 15, 2022 (GEORGIA STATE CAPITOL).....	16
FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS	17
APPENDICES	20
SIGNATURE PAGE	24

STUDY COMMITTEE CREATION, FOCUS, AND DUTIES

The Senate Study Committee on Excellence, Innovation, and Technology at Historically Black Colleges and Universities was created pursuant to Section 5-2 of Senate Resolution 4 (2021)¹ during the 2022 Legislative Session of the Georgia General Assembly. The Study Committee was tasked with undertaking a study of the conditions, needs, issues and challenges facing Georgia's HBCUs and recommending any actions deemed necessary or appropriate.

The intention of the Study Committee was to highlight the economic and social benefits HBCUs have and continue to provide this state. Furthermore, members hoped to identify a pathway for greater investment to be afforded these institutions so as to collectively realize their full potential to transform, inspire, and prepare students.

Senator Sonya Halpern of the 39th served as Chair of the Study Committee. The other Senate members were Senator Freddie Powell Sims of the 12th, Senator Jason Anavitarte of the 31st, Senator Valencia Seay of the 34th, Senator Tonya Anderson of the 43rd, and Senator Butch Miller of the 49th. Legislative staff assigned to the Study Committee included Ms. Anna Horvath from Senator Halpern's office, Ms. Carla Dawson from the Senate Research Office, and the Senate Press Office.

The Study Committee held four meetings in total: the first at the Georgia State Capitol on August 30, 2022; the second at Fort Valley State University on October 3, 2022; the third at Clark Atlanta University on October 26, 2022; and the final meeting at the Georgia State Capitol on December 15, 2022.

¹ https://www.senate.ga.gov/committees/Documents/HBCUs_apter.pdf.

BACKGROUND

The Higher Education Act of 1965 defines Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) as “any historically black college or university that was established prior to 1964, whose principal mission 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.”²

There are over 100 HBCUs in the United States, and Georgia is home to ten of them: Albany State University, Clark Atlanta University, Fort Valley State University, Interdenominational Theological Center, Morehouse College, Morehouse School of Medicine, Morris Brown College, Paine College, Savannah State University, and Spelman College.³ Georgia’s HBCUs produce \$1.3 billion in total economic impact, 12,040 jobs, and \$9.1 billion in lifetime earnings.⁴

Many of the challenges faced by HBCUs can be traced to historical underfunding. For example, Forbes reports that over the past three decades, black land-grant universities in particular have been underfunded by at least \$12.8 billion when compared to their predominantly white counterparts.⁵

² White House Initiative on Advancing Educational Equity, Excellence, and Economic Opportunity through Historically Black Colleges and Universities, What is an HBCU? <https://sites.ed.gov/whhbcu/one-hundred-and-five-historically-black-colleges-and-universities/>.

³ UNCF, The Economic Impact of Georgia’s HBCUs. <https://uncf.org/programs/georgia-impact>.

⁴ UNCF, The Economic Impact of Georgia’s HBCUs.

⁵ Forbes, How America Cheated Its Black Colleges. <https://www.forbes.com/sites/susanadams/2022/02/01/for-hbcus-cheated-out-of-billions-bomb-threats-are-latest-indignity/?sh=4fa6092d640c>.

SUMMARY OF TESTIMONY AND DISCUSSION

Meeting One – August 30, 2022 (State Capitol)

The Study Committee’s first meeting highlighted the economic impact of HBCUs in Georgia and discussed ways to better support them. The following individuals provided testimony:

- Mr. Fred Jones, Senior Director of Public Policy and Advocacy, Southern Education Foundation;
- President Matthew Williams, Interdenominational Theological Center;
- Mr. Lodriguez Murray, Senior Vice President of Public Policy, United Negro College Fund;
- Mr. Roger Tutterow, Ph.D., Henssler Financial Endowed Chair, Director of the Econometric Center, and Professor of Economics at Kennesaw State University;
- President Kimberly Ballard Washington, Savannah State University; and
- President Kevin James, Morris Brown College.

Mr. Fred Jones, Senior Director of Public Policy and Advocacy, Southern Education Foundation

Mr. Jones testified that the annual economic impact of HBCUs in Georgia is \$1.3 billion, with an employment impact of 12,000 jobs. Each graduating class produces \$9.1 billion in lifetime earnings. Only about 3% of all non-profit 2- and 4-year colleges are HBCUs, but they graduate 18% of all African American undergraduates, nearly 25% of African Americans with STEM majors, and about 50% of black teachers.

Mr. Jones noted that, on average, public Georgia HBCUs have significantly lower endowments than the University of Georgia. In FY 2020, Albany State University’s endowment was just over \$3 million, Fort Valley State University’s was over \$6.5 million, and Savannah State University’s was just over \$10 million, while the University of Georgia’s exceeded \$1 billion. Examples of recent state efforts to support HBCUs include the HBCU Co-op Program established by the Alabama Governor’s Office of Minority Affairs, North Carolina’s Historically Minority-serving Institutions Advisory Board, Maryland’s \$577 million settlement allocating funding to the state’s four HBCU’s, and Tennessee legislation seeking to strengthen the institutional capacity of HBCUs.

Annual Economic Impact of HBCUs in Georgia

\$1.3 billion

Employment Impact

12,000 jobs

Mr. Jones provided the following recommendations for the Study Committee: (1) invest in the research capacity of HBCUs; (2) support institutional effectiveness (endowments, student aid, and curriculum development); (3) invest in developmental education innovation and improvement at HBCUs to reduce pre-college learning gaps and transitions for black students; and (4)

explore historical underfunding or current state funding gaps between HBCUs and non-HBCUs.

President Matthew Williams, Interdenominational Theological Center

President Williams discussed the history of the ITC, which was established in 1958, and the degree programs offered: Master of Divinity, Master of Arts in Liturgical Arts and Culture, Master of Arts in Religion and Education, and Doctor of Ministry. He emphasized the importance of mission alignment, namely, that ITC seeks to provide the conditions and climate for black students to learn and thrive, rather than simply to put “faces in places” and seek diversity in the student body without establishing a climate that supports minority students.

He testified that the primary challenges that the ITC faces are: (1) affordability, with black theological student debt being \$12,000 higher than that of white peers; (2) accessibility, with the school beginning the transition to a hybrid learning model in fall 2019 but still facing issues with students lacking connectivity and hardware; and (3) under-investment in infrastructure, with issues related to technology, deferred maintenance, and limited access to COVID-19 relief funding since graduate schools do not qualify for the same support as undergraduate schools.

Mr. Lodriguez Murray, Senior Vice President of Public Policy, United Negro College Fund

Mr. Murray testified that HBCUs have a harder time accessing funds than non-HBCUs, as they have been underinvested in since inception and face bias from banks. Additionally, about 76% of HBCU students are Pell Grant eligible. While HBCU graduates represent only 10% of all black students, they represent 80% of all black judges, doctors, and dentists, 50% of all black lawyers, professors, and public school teachers, and 40% of all black Congress members and engineers. HBCUs are operating with less resources but still manage to produce better outcomes than better-resourced counterparts.

Georgia’s HBCUs attract students to the state, many of whom *remain here permanently* and keep much of the **\$9.1 billion** in lifetime earnings circulating in Georgia.

Mr. Murray explained that HBCU graduates are 51% more likely than peer black graduates to move into a higher-income quartile and that HBCUs create a nationwide total economic impact of \$14.8 billion annually. In Georgia specifically, many students come for school and never leave the state, so much of the \$9.1 billion in lifetime earnings for each graduating class circulates in Georgia. He called on the Study Committee to consider what HBCUs would be able to accomplish if they received the same level of investment as the state flagship.

Mr. Roger Tutterow, Ph.D., Henssler Financial Endowed Chair, Director of the Econometric Center, and Professor of Economics at Kennesaw State University

Mr. Tutterow testified that the past three years have not been a typical economic experience due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The 2020 recession was the steepest in modern times but was also the shortest, and Georgia has outperformed other states, ranking as seventh in the nation for employment compared to pre-pandemic times. He noted that a key factor in attracting companies to Georgia is access to a well-trained workforce, to which HBCUs contribute.

President Kimberly Ballard Washington, Savannah State University

President Washington testified regarding Savannah State's cybersecurity program and stated that Savannah State is outperforming its peers when resources are considered. She cited funding as a primary challenge the university faces, as funding is tied to enrollment, which has declined over recent years. The university foundation is responsible for many housing initiatives and currently houses 2,400 students. The university is working with a sister institution to learn how to be more energy efficient.

President Kevin James, Morris Brown College

President James testified that Morris Brown College was founded in 1881 but essentially closed 20 years ago after losing accreditation due to financial mismanagement. The college recently regained accreditation through the Transnational Association of Christian Colleges and Schools and offers bachelor's degrees and certificates. Morris Brown is now debt free, which allows them to offer lower tuition rates, making the college one of the most affordable in Georgia.

President James outlined the primary needs of Morris Brown College as support for: (1) institutional sustainability; (2) strategic enrollment management; (3) organizational excellence; (4) becoming a market-responsive institution with innovative academic programs; (5) technology and integrated learning spaces; and (6) strategic partnership opportunities.

Public Comment

Mr. Ken Dandy, an alum of Savannah State University, shared opportunities he has had because of his education, including jobs in Atlanta, Los Angeles, and Washington, D.C. He stated that HBCUs deserve the same quality and investment as non-HBCUs and called for further action on recommendations from a prior study committee.

Meeting Two – October 3, 2022 (Fort Valley State University)

The Study Committee's second meeting focused on partnerships between HBCUs and business and community organizations, as well as ways to better support HBCUs. The following individuals provided testimony:

- Dr. Paul Jones, President, Fort Valley State University;
- Mr. Kyle Wingfield and Dr. Kathaleena Edward Monds, Georgia Public Policy Foundation;
- President Marion R. Fedrick, Albany State University;
- Ms. Jillian Bowen, President and CEO, Peach County Chamber of Commerce;
- Ms. April Bragg, President and CEO, Robins Regional Chamber; and
- Dr. Cheryl Evans Jones, President, Paine College.

Dr. Paul Jones, President, Fort Valley State University

Dr. Jones testified that Fort Valley State University was established in 1895 and has the second largest campus in Georgia at 1,300 acres. FVSU has been ranked as the number one public HBCU in Georgia for five consecutive years and also ranks high for social mobility. About 2,600 students are currently enrolled, and almost 80% of them are Pell Grant recipients. Highlighting FVSU's \$147 million annual economic impact in its region, he shared that the university generates about 1,100 jobs in the local and regional community.

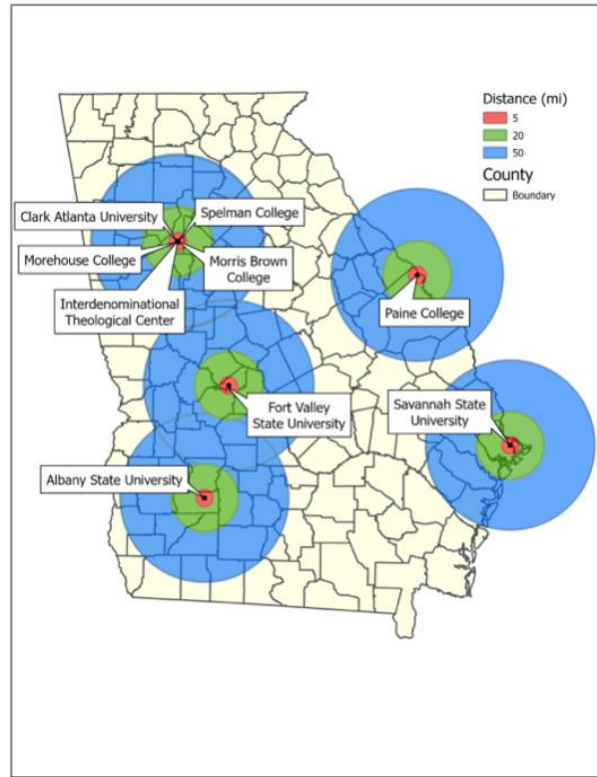
FVSU is engaged in many partnerships, including but not limited to: (1) a two-prong college pipeline and dual degree partnership with institutions such as the Georgia Institute of Technology and the University of Texas supporting women and minority students in STEM; (2) Robbin's Air Force Base; (3) **one of the largest solar farms on a higher education campus in the**

FVSU has a **\$147 million economic impact** in its region annually and generates about **1,100 jobs** in the local and regional community.

country, built by Georgia Power; (4) a laboratory awarded by Chevron and set to open next fall; (5) research on white flies and their damage to Georgia crops with the University of Georgia; and (6) peanut crop research with the U.S. Department of Agriculture. FVSU also has a Cooperative Development Energy Program and is in the last phases of planning for a new Center for Agribusiness Innovation and Entrepreneurship. **Since agriculture is the primary industry in Georgia, FVSU's role in creating a strong workforce and providing farmers with the information and technology to manage their farms is especially important.** Dr. Jones stressed the need for state contributions to match federal funds so their programs can continue.

Dr. Jones stated that some of FVSU's greatest needs are infrastructure improvements to assist with aging facilities and the effects of deferred maintenance, as well as upgrades to technology and equipment.

Mr. Wingfield discussed the Georgia Public Policy Foundation and introduced Dr. Monds. Dr. Monds testified about research suggesting that organizations that begin with more resources tend to be the ones that are able to continue accruing more resources, so schools with the greatest need must create their own partnerships with each other. She stated that the areas surrounding some of Georgia's most rural HBCUs are prime areas for expanding industries and creating new opportunities for building community connections. Systemic issues of poverty and lack of resources demand that HBCUs serve as a conduit to communities through programming, research, teaching, and technology. Dr. Monds also noted that the benefits of an HBCU education extend not only to the graduates, but to the local and regional economies in which the campuses are situated as well.



The areas surrounding some of Georgia's most rural HBCUs are prime areas for *expanding industries* and creating *new opportunities* for building community connections.

President Marion R. Fedrick, Albany State University

President Fedrick testified that Albany State University is the largest HBCU in Georgia, with over 6,300 students. About 80% of the student body is Pell Grant eligible, and 60% of that 80% is high Pell eligible. ASU has a \$251 million annual economic impact on southwest Georgia and offers associates, bachelor's, and master's degrees. She outlined ASU's 2025 Strategic Plan, which consists of four prongs: (1) student access and success; (2) institutional sustainability and responsible stewardship; (3) partnership and economic competitiveness; and (4) leadership development and employee engagement.

ASU has a **\$251 million economic impact** on southwest Georgia annually.

President Fedrick also testified regarding key partnerships and programs at ASU, such as: (1) the Center for Innovation and Emerging Technologies; (2) a partnership with IBM to address the cybersecurity talent shortage; (3) a partnership with Phoebe Putney Health System to promote nursing and healthcare careers; (4) the Undergraduate Health Sciences Academy, a collaboration with Morehouse School of

Medicine; and (5) a partnership with the local Marine Corps Logistics Base to modernize the supply chain and logistics capabilities of the base and provide cybersecurity training to base staff.

Opportunities for sustainability include business development, full funding, capital projects, business partnerships, and paid internships.

Ms. Jillian Bowen, President and CEO, Peach County Chamber of Commerce

Ms. Bowen testified that having Fort Valley State in Peach County has benefitted the local economy and resulted in a \$147 million annual impact on the regional economy. In 2020-2021, FVSU had a 4% increase in output impact, even with pandemic disruptions, and it is one of the community’s largest employers. Ms. Bowen shared that the board remains in contact with faculty about partnerships and facilitates engagement with companies interested in coming to the area, especially for agricultural pursuits. She suggested that it would be helpful for the Georgia Department of Economic Development to market opportunities associated with HBCUs more.

Ms. Bowen stated that the presence of FVSU in Peach County has benefitted the local economy and resulted in a **\$147 million** impact on the regional economy annually.

Suggestion:

The Georgia Department of Economic Development can assist with marketing opportunities associated with HBCUs more.

Ms. April Bragg, President and CEO, Robins Regional Chamber

Ms. Bragg testified about the chamber’s involvement with FVSU. This year, the chamber brought its Adult Leadership Class to the campus as part of Georgia Grown Day. The chamber also hosts a Youth Leadership Program for high school students; Ms. Bragg shared about a student who participated in the program and chose FVSU for the opportunities available to him that would not exist elsewhere. She also referenced the show Critter Fixer: Country Vets because both doctors are prominent FVSU graduates who operate in Peach County.

Dr. Cheryl Evans Jones, President, Paine College

Dr. Jones testified that Paine College is accredited by the Transnational Association of Christian Colleges and Schools and awards bachelor’s degrees. For the 2022 fall semester, 314 students are enrolled. Paine College’s main priorities are: (1) enrollment growth and stability; (2) facilities enhancement, specifically residence halls; (3) ensuring the college’s long-term financial stability; (4) expanding academic offerings; and (5) creating a Center for Teaching and Learning and an Academic Resource Center. They hope to establish a cybersecurity program in the future.

Dr. Jones noted that Paine College recently received: (1) a \$1.4 million grant from the Augusta-Richmond County Commission for COVID-19 mitigation, recruitment, and retention; (2) a \$65,343 grant from Bank of America for the first new Hybrid Smart Interactive Classroom; (3) two endowed Lee Elder Scholarships and funding for the women’s

golf team from the Augusta National Golf Club; and (4) a \$289,387 three-year grant from the U.S. Department of Justice for the creation of an Education/Prevention and Bystander Intervention Program and coordinated victim services to address issues of domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking on campus.

Giving Back to the Community

The HEAL Complex provides educational, medical, and other services.

Paine College also works with the city to alleviate issues associated with food deserts and insecurity, the COVID-19 pandemic, and contaminated soil.

Paine College serves the community through its HEAL Complex, providing educational, medical, and other services, and it works with the city to address problems of food deserts, pandemic-related issues, feeding the needy, and contaminated soil. At one local school, twelve teachers are Paine College alumni.

Dr. Jones listed several challenges the college faces, including: (1) regaining their education program, as the Georgia Professional Standards Commission only recognizes SACSCOC or traditional regional accreditors in Georgia; (2) seeking continuous approval for Georgia Tuition Assistance Grants and other programs so that students can meet tuition costs; and (3) obtaining resources to improve infrastructure.

Meeting Three – October 26, 2022 (Clark Atlanta University)

The Study Committee's third meeting focused on the Atlanta University Center Consortium and ways to support HBCUs, including funding mechanisms. The following individuals provided testimony:

- Dr. George T. French, President, Clark Atlanta University;
- Ms. Tracey Cook, Chief Financial Officer, University System of Georgia;
- Dr. Helene Gayle, President, Spelman College;
- Representative Harold Love, Tennessee General Assembly;
- Mr. Sterling Johnson, Partnership for Southern Equity, Just Opportunity Portfolio Director;
- Mr. Rufus Montgomery, The Cascon Group;
- Dr. Adrian Tyndall, Dean and EVP of Health Affairs, Morehouse School of Medicine; and
- Mr. Nathaniel Smith, CEO and Founder, Partnership for Southern Equity.

Dr. George T. French, President, Clark Atlanta University

Dr. French testified that Clark Atlanta University is in the midst of a quarter billion dollar capital campaign aimed at improving infrastructure and scholarship capabilities, and at the

time of the meeting, they were ahead of schedule. CAU is the largest landowner on the west end of Atlanta and now has some of the funds to fix buildings that it has always wanted to.

Nine proposed initiatives include: (1) provide housing for 500 additional students through the construction and renovation of Burnstead Ware residence hall with dining component; (2) stabilize Gaines Hall; (3) sell Park Street Church; (4) expand Innovation and Entrepreneurship Center in Environmental Science Biology Building; (5) Paschal's redevelopment; (6) Center for Cancer Research and Therapeutic Development (CCRTD) partnership; (7) construction of new public safety building; (8) purchase of Heritage and Suites; and (9) construction of new President's House which will serve as the home of university presidents and their families and be a venue for university events. Dr. French noted that CAU's CCRTD is one of the largest prostate cancer academic research centers in the country and that the disease affects black people at higher rates.

Dr. French explained that CAU has partnered with Apple for a Propel Innovation Hub on campus. He invited Dr. Washington to speak, and she shared efforts to diversify the data science field, as only 3% of data scientists are African American. CAU received \$10 million from the National Science Foundation, which will help establish the National Data Science Alliance.

Ms. Tracey Cook, Chief Financial Officer, University System of Georgia

Ms. Cook testified that the University System of Georgia includes 26 institutions, three of which are HBCUs: Savannah State University, Fort Valley State University, and Albany State University. The USG represents 10.3% of the state's budget, amounting to \$3.1 billion. The USG is about a \$10.33 billion enterprise for the state. State appropriations make up 30% of their budget and tuition makes up about 21%. The USG uses a funding formula that was first implemented in 1984 which calculates a lump sum amount approximating the cost to educate students. The main input is credit hour production and enrollment, but it is important to note that not all credits require equal funding, so schools with equal amounts of students enrolled may receive different amounts based on types of credits.

The USG uses a funding formula that was *first implemented in 1984* which calculates a lump sum approximating the cost to educate students.

Ms. Cook explained that the board determines how funds are allocated to institutions. Historically, this was a 75/25 ratio of state funds/tuition, but it is currently 56/44 state funds/tuition. State funds were at 75% in the 1990's and before, and began dropping due to economic downturn, dropping below 50% after cuts during the Great Recession, rising only recently.

Historically, the ratio of state funds/tuition was **75/25**.

However, it is currently **56/44** state funds/tuition.

State funds were at **75% in the 1990's and before**, and they began dropping due to economic downturn, **dropping below 50%** after cuts during the Great Recession, rising only recently.

There has been a relative decline in fall enrollment across the state, including at the HBCUs in the USG. The regions with most growth of the population aged 15-24 are Northeast Georgia (25.1%) and Northwest Georgia (6.1% - 9.5%). The three HBCUs in the USG are located in South Georgia, with Albany State located in a region that actually has negative growth for the 15-24 age range. Additionally, birth rates declined about 18 years ago, so the effects are beginning to show. It is anticipated that there will be a sharper high school graduate pipeline decline in Georgia beginning in 2026, which is the same as other states.

The USG FY 2022 funding per student FTE was \$8,011, and the state university sector funding FTE was \$6,603. For HBCUs, state funds per FTE is higher than other institutions within the sector: Fort Valley State University FTE \$7,898, Savannah State University FTE \$7,674, and Albany State FTE \$6,188. Over a ten year period (FY14-23), the state has invested about \$140 million into the three USG HBCUs in capital funding and major repair and renovation funding.

Over a ten year period (FY14-23), Georgia has invested about **\$140 million** into the three USG HBCUs in capital funding and major repair and renovation funding.

The process for approving new degree programs requires the schools to make a business case detailing demand for the program, job openings, required skills, employment projections, and more.

Dr. Helene Gayle, President, Spelman College

Dr. Gayle testified that Spelman College recently completed its capital campaign with a goal of \$250 million; they exceeded this goal by \$80 million. The campaign was based on four strategic pillars: (1) delivering on the promise of making a Spelman education as available to young women as possible; (2) elevating Spelman's differences; (3) enhancing operational excellence and infrastructure; and (4) promoting academic innovation.

Dr. Gayle stated that Spelman has been ranked as the top HBCU in the United States for 16 consecutive years, is number four for social mobility, and number seven for most innovative schools. Spelman recently launched a Center for Black Entrepreneurship with Morehouse

Dr. Gayle characterized Spelman's campus as an *island of excellence* surrounded by areas of need.

College and hopes to launch a new program in cybersecurity and policy. The college is also in the process of building the Mary Schmidt Campbell Center for Innovation and the Arts, which is the first building to be partially outside of campus gates. Dr. Gayle described the campus as an island of excellence surrounded by areas of need and discussed E-Spelman, an online platform for adult learners who need specific skills for the workforce.

The primary challenges Spelman faces are: (1) a housing shortage and need for infrastructure improvements; (2) a need for updated technology; (3) a need for resources to be able to better support and retain faculty; and (4) being able to provide scholarships.

Representative Harold Love, Tennessee General Assembly

Representative Love testified regarding the issue of finding ways for Tennessee’s private HBCUs to connect with state government, particularly for budgetary purposes. When former Tennessee Governor Haslam initiated efforts to increase the amount of Tennesseans with college degrees, Rep. Love noticed HBCUs’ potential to help reach this goal was not factored in as part of the equation. As a result, HB 0553, known as the HBCU Success Program, was passed in 2017, requiring government departments to find ways to collaborate with HBCUs to increase graduation, retention, and enrollment rates.

Other Tennessee efforts include HB 823 (2019), which required the Tennessee Higher Education Commission to annually report funding obtained from the federal government, as well as a 2020 committee to research the underfunding of Tennessee State University. Rep. Love shared that he chaired the committee, which found that TSU had been underfunded by about \$544 million and concluded that this underfunding had led to significant issues with infrastructure. They also found that TSU had \$337 million worth of infrastructure needs and were able to have \$359 million allocated to TSU by the state.

Tennessee Efforts

HB 0553
The HBCU Success Program requires government departments to find ways to collaborate with HBCUs to increase graduation, retention, and enrollment rates.

HB 823
This bill requires the Tennessee Higher Education Commission to annually report funding obtained from the federal government.

Committee
A 2020 committee was tasked with researching the underfunding of Tennessee State University.

Mr. Sterling Johnson, Partnership for Southern Equity, Just Opportunity Portfolio Director

Mr. Johnson testified that the mission of the Partnership for Southern Equity is to advance policies and institutional actions that promote racial equity and shared prosperity for all in the growth of metropolitan Atlanta and the American South.

He provided many statistics related to HBCUs and the African American population, including:

- 1) 81% of HBCUs are located in U.S. counties with a median wage below the national average;
- 2) 65% of HBCUs are located where past and projected net job growth is slower than average;

- 3) Georgia is among the worst in economic mobility and income inequality:
 - a. In Atlanta, 80% of black children live in high poverty areas, compared to 6% of white children;
 - b. Georgia is in the second percentile in upward income mobility, and for children born into poverty, only about 4% make it into the upper quartile of income earners; and
 - c. Black children from low wealth census tracts surrounding Georgia's HBCUs live with average annual household incomes well under the federal poverty line, and there is significant overlap between black populations without high-speed internet where HBCUs are located;
- 4) HBCUs serve more Pell Grant eligible (70%) and first generation (39%) college students than non-HBCUs, and their mobility rates are more than double the national average; and
- 5) HBCUs have provided 17% of all black bachelor's degrees, 24% of all STEM-related bachelor's degrees obtained by black students in the U.S., 40% of all black engineers and U.S. Congress members, 50% of all black lawyers, and 80% of all black judges.

Mr. Johnson remarked that college graduates have average lifetime earnings over \$1.2 million more and annual earnings over \$32,000 more than those with high school degrees

HBCUs have provided 17% of all black bachelor's degrees, 24% of all STEM-related bachelor's degrees obtained by black students in the U.S., 40% of all black engineers and U.S. Congress members, 50% of all black lawyers, and 80% of all black judges.

only. They are also twice as likely to volunteer, 3.5 times less likely to live in poverty, and five times less likely to be involved in the justice system. He also noted that black degree holders are twice as likely as their white counterparts to be unemployed a year after graduation, that black employees only make up 7.4% of the technology workforce, and that Georgia's black workers age 25 and up are twice more likely to be unemployed than their white, Latino, and Asian counterparts.

Under an economy with equitable conditions, the PSE predicts growth of Georgia's GDP by about \$12 billion annually and estimates that closing the racial wealth gap would add about \$1-1.5 trillion to the U.S. economy by 2028, which is four to six percent of the projected GDP.

Mr. Rufus Montgomery, The Cascon Group

Mr. Montgomery explained that the White House HBCU Initiative has not been done at the state level and proposed a similar Georgia HBCU Initiative to continue the work of the Study Committee in the future. He described his experience in leadership at both Georgia and Florida HBCUs and **shared that in Florida, they were receiving about \$178 million a year in state appropriations, with over a billion on the capital side.** He advocated for boards of trustees for the individual Georgia HBCUs.

Dr. Adrian Tyndall, Dean and EVP of Health Affairs, Morehouse School of Medicine

Dr. Tyndall testified that Morehouse School of Medicine has over 600 students in eight graduate programs (MD, PhD, MPH, and different masters' in bioscience). In total, MSM has graduated 1,033 students, and 61% of them remained in Georgia to either practice or enter into a fellowship. 56% of the 1,033 graduates have pursued careers in primary care.

Dr. Tyndall emphasized the demand for healthcare occupations, with a major shortage of physicians projected out to 2034. He noted that five percent of all active physicians are African American, and that there were more black male matriculants in 1980 than there were five years ago. In 1970, Georgia had 795 white people for every white physician and 13,810 black people for every black physician; now, Georgia has 575 white people for every white physician and 1,450 black people for every black physician. Dr. Tyndall attributed this move in a positive direction to Georgia's HBCUs and stated that there is still work to be done.

MSM has graduated 1,033 students in total, and **61% of them remained in Georgia** to either practice or enter into a fellowship.

MSM's centers and institutes include the Atlanta Clinical and Translational Institute, Cardiovascular Research Institute, Center of Excellence on Health Disparities, Center for Maternal Health Equity, Clinical Research Center, Georgia AIDS Education and Training Center, Health Equity Cancer Center, National Center for Primary Care, Neuroscience Institute, Prevention Research Center, RCMI Center for Clinical and Translational Research, RCMI Translational Research Network, Satcher Health Leadership Institute, Southeast Regional Clinicians Network, and the Transitional Collaborative Center. Research departments include microbiology, biochemistry and immunology, neurobiology, pathology and anatomy, pharmacology and toxicology, and physiology. Fiscal year 2022 project period funding exceeds \$100,000,000.

In terms of infrastructure, Dr. Tyndall shared about his experience as a dean at the University of Florida and remarked that Florida provides much more state funding. He explained that NIH grants come with indirect dollars for infrastructure, often based on the size of the institution's infrastructure. Many HBCUs have built using federal money, which is discounted from NIH grants. The resulting issue is that schools such as Harvard receive significantly more money for infrastructure than HBCUs; MSM's indirect money is about half of what Harvard would get for the same grant. Dr. Tyndall suggested that if the state better helped to fund infrastructure, Georgia's HBCUs would not face such a steep discount from NIH grants and would be more competitive for drawing faculty and students.

Mr. Nathaniel Smith, CEO and Founder, Partnership for Southern Equity

Mr. Smith testified that black Americans in the workforce earn a median annual wage of approximately 30% or \$10,000 less than white workers, and there is an estimated \$1.6 trillion gap in aggregate revenue between black owned and non-black owned businesses. He remarked that HBCUs play a pivotal role in closing these gaps and urged people to walk to the edge of campuses to see examples of communities in need of support.

Mr. Smith advocated for the creation of HBCU Prosperity Planning Districts to support communities around HBCUs and demonstrate direct ways for the government to improve infrastructure both on and off campus. These districts would streamline investment into housing, digital infrastructure, small business development, clean energy, emergency response, and workforce development.

Meeting Four – December 15, 2022 (Georgia State Capitol)

The Committee met for a fourth and final time to discuss its findings and recommendations based on the testimony heard at previous meetings. The report was adopted unanimously.

FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Prepared by Chairwoman Halpern of the 39th

The recommendations offered in this document are not exhaustive, but they are foundational to grow and sustain Georgia's ten HBCUs. The efforts of this Senate Study Committee, and those who presented before it, have provided our state with a plan for transforming these historic institutions.

Testimony delivered by business/economic development, non-profit and HBCU leaders, outlined a story of success and opportunity. While Georgia's ten HBCUs enroll more than 20,000 Black undergraduates each year, educate 18% of all Black undergraduates each year at four-year institutions in the state, award 23% of all bachelor's degrees earned by Black students, and generate \$1.3 billion in economic impact across the state, testimony also provided a roadmap toward institutional growth and sustainability: (1) addressing infrastructure capacity including facilities, human and financial capital, and technology; (2) supporting institutional effectiveness by increasing research capacity, innovation, and curriculum development; (3) strengthening investments in operations, capital projects, student aid, and endowments; and (4) creating pathways for expanding industry and building community connections.

We acknowledge this endeavor requires time, planning, preparation, and agreement from multiple sectors to position HBCUs as catalysts for diversifying our workforce, driving innovation and economic impact, and anchoring community and economic development around their campuses.

The Senate Study Committee believes the recommendations below represent a pragmatic approach towards advancing the interests of HBCUs and the state of Georgia, recognizing the success of one inevitably leads to the success of the other.

We appreciate our colleagues in the Senate and House receiving these recommendations with the spirit in which they were conceived: recognizing the greatest resource we have as a state are the students who attend our institutions and go on to apply what they learned to advance our society economically, culturally, socially, civically and politically.

Therefore, we the Senate Study Committee on Excellence, Innovation, and Technology at HBCUs recommend the following for consideration during the 2023 Georgia General Assembly:

Establishment of an HBCU Caucus – In 2023, we propose establishing a bipartisan, bicameral caucus to discuss policy, budget, programming, and other issues pertaining to Historically Black Colleges and Universities in Georgia. Modeled off the U.S. Congressional Bipartisan HBCU Caucus, this body intends to continue the work of this Senate Study Committee by further engaging HBCU presidents and other interested parties on how to maximize investment in student achievement, institutional modernization, and improving surrounding economic conditions.

Establishment of an HBCU Subcommittee – In 2023, we propose establishing an HBCU Subcommittee in the Senate and House Higher Education Committees. We believe the ten historic HBCUs would greatly benefit from a committee dedicated to considering and adopting specific legislation related to them and their surrounding communities. Each subcommittee will be comprised of members from the higher education committees with a particular interest in advancing HBCUs. The Georgia General Assembly has demonstrated success in utilizing subcommittees to dive more deeply into a specific area of a committee’s jurisdiction, as evidenced by the work of subcommittees in Senate Appropriations, Insurance and Labor, and Judiciary, as well as in House Appropriations, Governmental Affairs, Insurance, Judiciary, Small Business Development, and the Special Committee on Election Integrity. We are confident that the work undertaken in an HBCU Subcommittee will prove to be meaningful as well.

Adoption of Legislation to Create HBCU Innovation & Economic Prosperity Planning Districts – In 2023, we propose introducing bipartisan legislation to establish HBCU Innovation & Economic Prosperity Planning Districts. The proposed legislation would empower the state to create planning districts and study best practices to implement this innovative approach through community engagement. In these planning districts, city, county, state, and federal governments, as well as private and philanthropic interests, can leverage their resources to support innovation, technology, and entrepreneurship at HBCUs, and modernize their campuses and the surrounding communities. From their inception, HBCUs have served as anchor institutions in their communities. We believe these planning districts can transform these institutions and surrounding communities in numerous ways such as:

- **Housing** – Develop attainable mixed-use housing on HBCU owned property. This would diversify institutional revenue, provide off campus housing for students, provide affordable housing for families, and create retail space for local businesses.
- **Digital Infrastructure** – Upgrade broadband fiber optics in and around HBCUs to strengthen WIFI capability and access, and modernize technological infrastructure toward increased socialization, training, and capacity building.
- **Small Business Development** – Invest in small business development in commercial corridors where HBCUs serve as incubators to provide entrepreneurs with the technical assistance, knowledge, and resources to start local businesses.
- **Environmental Upgrades** – Improve the local environment by protecting and adding to the tree canopy, preserving greenspace, protecting waterways, building dedicated bike lanes, constructing walking paths, and encouraging urban farming.
- **Campus Property Upgrades** – Support public/private partnerships to improve campus facilities where buildings are weatherized, resilient, and use various forms of energy for power.
- **Workforce Development Centers** –Facilitate HBCU partnerships with existing or new workforce development centers to provide local residents certification training to enter emerging industries where Black workers are underrepresented.

HBCUs in Georgia should consider commissioning a third-party entity to publish a biennial HBCU snapshot report that identifies how each state agency interacts, supports, and funds public and private HBCUs and minority-serving institutions in the state,

disaggregated by each type of institution. Due to limitations on financial resources, including smaller endowments, HBCUs have fewer resources for faculty and academic development, improvement of instructional facilities, and student services. A credible third-party research-based organization can offer an independent analysis of the state's support to Georgia's HBCUs and its efforts to help these institutions build on their success. A nonpartisan third-party organization can provide much-needed attention, transparency, and recommendations to state agencies on how to support HBCUs and improve the state's economy. This report will be submitted biennially to the members of the General Assembly, the Governor's Office, and the University System of Georgia.

These recommendations are intended to lay the foundation for a multiyear strategy led by members of the Georgia General Assembly and the HBCU community to: identify opportunities for expanding and strengthening institutional capacity; unlock new opportunities for creativity, invention and innovation; meet state workforce demands; produce cutting edge research; fully maximize their potential; and serve as cornerstones for community and economic transformation.

We are eager to hear from our colleagues and all Georgia residents who appreciate what HBCUs have contributed to our state and country.

APPENDICES

Prepared by Chairwoman Halpern of the 39th

Appendix 1

Hearing Summaries

Title: Senate Study Committee on Excellence, Innovation, and Technology at Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) [Hearing #1](#)

Date: August 30, 2022

Time: 1:00 PM

Location: Georgia State Capitol - Room 341, 206 Capitol Square SE, Atlanta, GA 30309

- Mr. Fred Jones, Senior Director of Public Policy and Advocacy, Southern Education Foundation
- President Matthew Williams, Interdenominational Theological Center
- President Kimberly Ballard Washington, Savannah State University
- Mr. Roger Tutterow, Ph.D., Chief Economic Adviser to Henssler Financial, Director of the Econometric Center, and Professor of Economics at Kennesaw State University
- Mr. Lodriguez Murray, Senior Vice President of Public Policy, United Negro College Fund
- President Kevin James, Morris Brown College

Title: Senate Study Committee on Excellence, Innovation, and Technology at Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) [Hearing #2](#)

Date: October 3, 2022

Time: 11:00 AM

Location: Fort Valley State University - Agricultural Conference Center, 46 Camp John Hope Rd., Fort Valley, GA 31030

- Dr. Paul Jones, President of Fort Valley University
- Mr. Kyle Wingfield, President and CEO of the Georgia Public Policy Foundation
- President Marion R. Fredrick, Albany State University
- Ms. Jillian Bowen, President and CEO of the Peach County Chamber of Commerce
- Ms. April Bragg, President and CEO of Robins Regional Chamber
- President, Dr. Cheryl Evans Jones, Paine College

Title: Senate Study Committee on Excellence, Innovation, and Technology at Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) [Hearing #3](#)

Date: October 26, 2022

Time: 1:00 PM

Location: Clark Atlanta University - Thomas W. Cole Research Center for Science & Technology Board Room, 223 James P. Brawley Dr. SW, Atlanta, GA 30314

- Dr. George T. French, President of Clark Atlanta University
- Ms. Tracey Cook, Chief Fiscal Officer at the University System of Georgia
- Dr. Helene Gayle, President of Spelman College
- Mr. Harold Moses Love, Jr., Ph.D., State Representative for District 58, Tennessee General Assembly
- Mr. Sterling Johnson, Just Opportunity Portfolio Director, Partnership for Southern Equity
- Dr. Adrian Tyndall, Dean and Executive Vice President of Health Affairs, Morehouse School of Medicine
- Mr. Nathaniel Smith, CEO and Founder, Partnership for Southern Equity

Appendix 2

Summaries of significant statewide HBCU investments or programs

Alabama

- The Governor's Office of Minority Affairs established the [Alabama HBCU](#) Initiative to ensure a continuous line of communication between Alabama's HBCUs and the state.

Maryland

- After years of legal debate, [Maryland](#) reached a \$577 million settlement to end a 15-year-old federal lawsuit accusing the state of providing inequitable resources to its four HBCUs.

North Carolina

- The UNC System Board of Governors created a special [committee](#) on Historically Minority-Serving Institutions in 2018 to study and assess six institutions' unique challenges and opportunities. The committee's goal is to create strategies to ensure these institutions' future growth by promoting investments, opportunities, and awareness throughout the state.

Tennessee

- [HBCU Success at the Tennessee Higher Education Commission](#) (THEC) is dedicated to strengthening the capacity of Tennessee’s HBCUs to provide the highest-quality education, increasing opportunities for these institutions to participate in and benefit from funding from state programs, and ensuring Tennessee has the highest proportion of college graduates from HBCUs in the country.

Appendix 3

Senator Halpern’s Alumni Study Results

A small sample of Georgia’s HBCU alumni garnered responses ranging from the class of 1964 to the class of 2016. Alumni primarily noted internships and clubs as programs they participated in during college that aided them in preparing for their careers. Internship opportunities were also the primary suggestion for what graduates felt would be most beneficial to current students.

When asked what they believed their HBCU did well, respondents reported a strong sense of community and preparation to be competitive in the workforce. As for what could use improvement, a common theme was funding for housing and educational facilities, as well as an increase in scholarships.

Appendix 4

Relevant HBCU-Related Resources

1. [A Call to Action for HBCU Investment](#) (Brookings Metro), 2022
2. [The State of Higher Education Funding: HBCUs](#) (The Hunt Institute), 2022
3. [Liberal Arts: Our HBCU Cornerstone](#) (SEF), 2022
4. [Greater Funding, Greater Needs: A Report on Funding for HBCUs](#) (UNCF), 2022
5. [Florida A&M Students Sue State, Accusing It of Decades of Underfunding](#) (The Chronicle of Higher Education), 2022
6. [Borrowing during a time of crisis: Examining institutional debt during the Great Recession and COVID-19](#) (Ithaka S+R), 2022
7. [The Facts on HBCUs: Top 10 Facts about HBCUs](#) (The Century Foundation), 2022
8. [HBCUs Transforming Generations: Social Mobility Outcomes](#) (UNCF), 2021
9. [How HBCUs can accelerate Black economic mobility](#)(McKinsey Institute for Black Economic Mobility), 2021

10. [Achieving Financial Equity and Justice for HBCUs](#)(The Century Foundation), 2021
11. [Underfunded. But Why?](#) (Every Texan), 2020
12. [Moving Upward and Onward: Income Mobility at HBCUs](#) (Rutgers University), 2019
13. [Small Business Administration: Opportunities Exist to Strengthen Engagement with HBCUs](#) (U.S. Government Accountability Office), 2019
14. [Untold Barriers for Black Students in Higher Education](#) (SEF), 2017
15. [The Positive Economic Impact of Georgia's HBCUs](#) (UNCF), 2017
16. [Investing in the Future: Lessons on Advancing Institutional Effectiveness from HBCUs](#) (SEF), 2016

Respectfully Submitted,

**FINAL REPORT OF THE SENATE STUDY COMMITTEE
ON EXCELLENCE, INNOVATION, AND TECHNOLOGY
AT HISTORICALLY BLACK COLLEGES AND
UNIVERSITIES (SECTION 5-2 OF SR 4 (2021))**



**Senator Sonya Halpern - Committee Chairwoman
District 39**