

G E O R G I A

PUBLIC POLICY FOUNDATION

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Who are we?

- We are a trusted, independent resource for voters and elected officials. We propose actionable solutions to real-life problems by bringing people together.
- Education has always been a key issue for us.
- Founded in 1991, we believe in free enterprise and limited government.
- We are nonprofit, nonpartisan and apolitical.

Areas of Focus

- Geography of Opportunity
- Town-and-Gown
- Bottom-Up Engagement

“Education must not simply teach work, it should teach life”

- W.E.B. DuBois



HBCUs have a rich historical connection of excellence, technology and innovation:

- Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune (FL)
“famously started the Daytona Literary and Industrial Training Institute [later Bethune-Cookman College] for Negro Girls on Oct. 3, 1904, with \$1.50, vision, and entrepreneurial mindset, resilience and faith in God”
- Dr. Joseph Winthrop Holley (GA),
founder of Albany Bible and Manual Training Institute in 1903 [now Albany State University], “moved to Albany and purchased 50 acres of land near the Flint River for the campus and established a Board of Trustees”

Holley saw opportunity in the geography.

What, and where, is the opportunity now?

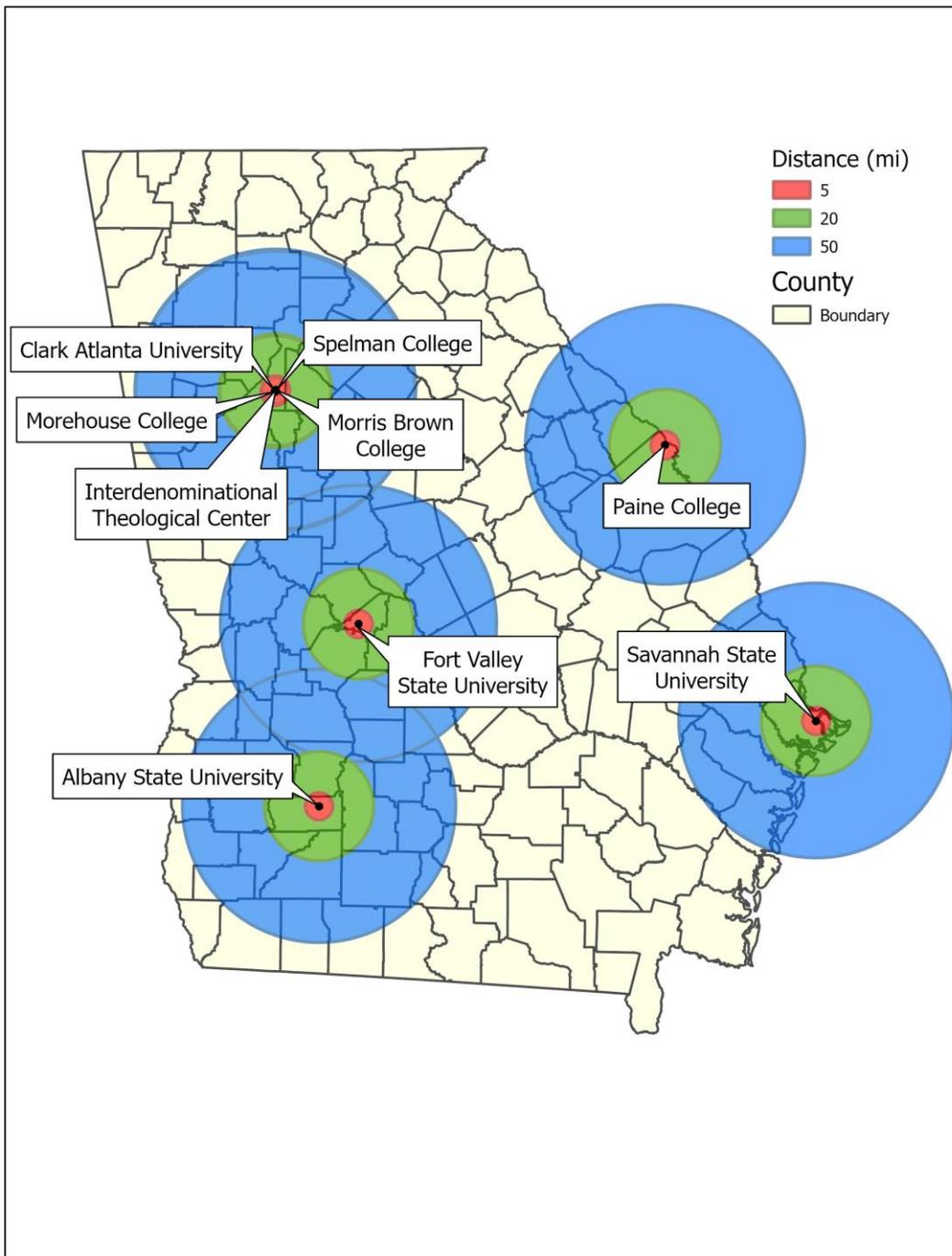
- To serve communities better and further integrate them both *upstream* (K-12) and *downstream* (industry and society more broadly)

Geography of Opportunity

According to her study “on one hand, encouraging school partnerships seems like a reasonable thing to do. If schools do not have resources, then they should secure resources from people and organizations that do.

On the other hand, this assumes that the schools most in need of resources will be the ones most likely to receive them. Unfortunately, research across a variety of sectors suggests the opposite: When organizations start out with more resources, they tend to continue accruing more resources.” (Bridwell-Mitchell, E., 2019)

Source: “Them That’s Got? How School Partnerships Can Perpetuate Inequalities” by Ebony Bridwell-Mitchell (p. 34)



Bridging Town-and-Gown

Atlanta University started a program in 1942 called “[The People’s College](#)” in which more than 500 persons living in the geography of the university came to the campus via partnerships with the business community and churches to offer education for a wide range of citizens – porters, clerks domestics, housewives, college students, nurses, and a host of others – they recognized the importance of preparing all citizens beyond those on the campus and those enrolled in K-12 schools (Bacote, C., 1969)

Source: *The Story of Atlanta University: A Century of Service 1865-1965*
by Clarence Bacote (p. 341)

SO WHO BENEFITS FROM HBCUs?

-  HBCUs clearly benefit the students who attend them and the entire nation, which makes use of the valuable skills these graduates bring to the workplace.
-  HBCUs benefit the communities in which these institutions are located, and the wider regions that serve them, in other ways as well. They act as significant drivers of essential economic activity both on- and off-campus.
-  The numbers are compelling: Investing in HBCUs pays large and lasting dividends for all of us.

Source: *HBCUs Make America Strong: The Positive Econ Impact of HBCUs* (p. 6)

Bottom-Up Engagement

“Another thing to impress upon my people both by precept and example is that whether their [educational opportunity](#) comes from friends of the race or the taxpayers of the State, the end is the same and that is to make good citizens.

I do not know myself what a good citizen is, but I do know that a good citizen possesses certain qualities, and often in my talks to my people I sum up these qualities as follows: first, [intelligence](#); second, [industry](#); third, [integrity](#); fourth, [independence](#)” (Holley, J. W., 1948)

Questions?

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