

Historically black colleges and universities

Current policy & progress

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Historically black colleges and universities (HBCUs): introduction and quick stats

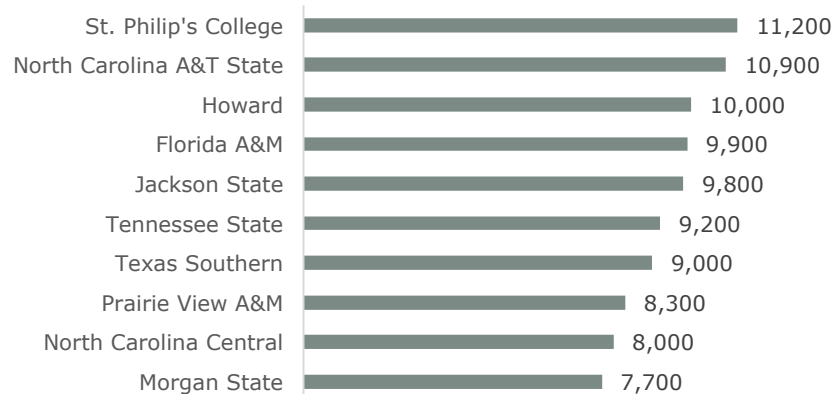
HBCUs and their impact on American students



Overview

A historically black college and university (HBCU) is defined by Congress as an institution of higher learning "established prior to 1964, whose principal mission was, and is, the education of black Americans." Most HBCUs were created after the Civil War, when many universities banned African Americans from attending. While established as a means of higher education for African Americans, HBCUs increasingly enroll Hispanic, white, Asian and other students.

10 largest HBCUs, by 2015 enrollment



Almost **300,000** students enrolled at HBCUs nationwide in 2015

107 HBCUs in the US

9% of black college students were enrolled at an HBCU in 2015, a 4% decline from 2000

70% of all black doctors and dentists in the US graduated from HBCUs

50% of all black engineers and public school teachers graduated from HBCUs

17% of HBCU students in 2015 were white, Asian or Pacific Islander, Hispanic or Native American

Concerns over federal funding of HBCUs are clear at Sept. White House conference

Tensions between HBCU leaders and the Trump administration grow



HBCUs and the Trump administration

Since Jimmy Carter, every US president has pledged their commitment to historically black colleges and universities. Accordingly, the White House usually hosts an annual conference for HBCU leaders, who attend to lobby Congress and the administration.

This year, the conference – the first of its kind under the Trump – was scaled down from a three-day to a one-day event, an announcement that came after a number of Congressional Black Caucus and Congressional HBCU Caucus members called for the conference to be delayed. These leaders expressed their disapproval that an executive director for the White House's Initiative on HBCUs, as well as members of the advisory board, had not yet been named.



Appointment of Johnathan Holifield

Johnathan Holifield, a former NFL player who became a business consultant, was named executive director of the White House Initiative on Historically Black Colleges and Universities on September 17. Holifield's appointment came significantly later than executive director appointments in past administrations; the last four administrations had selected one by July of their first year in office.

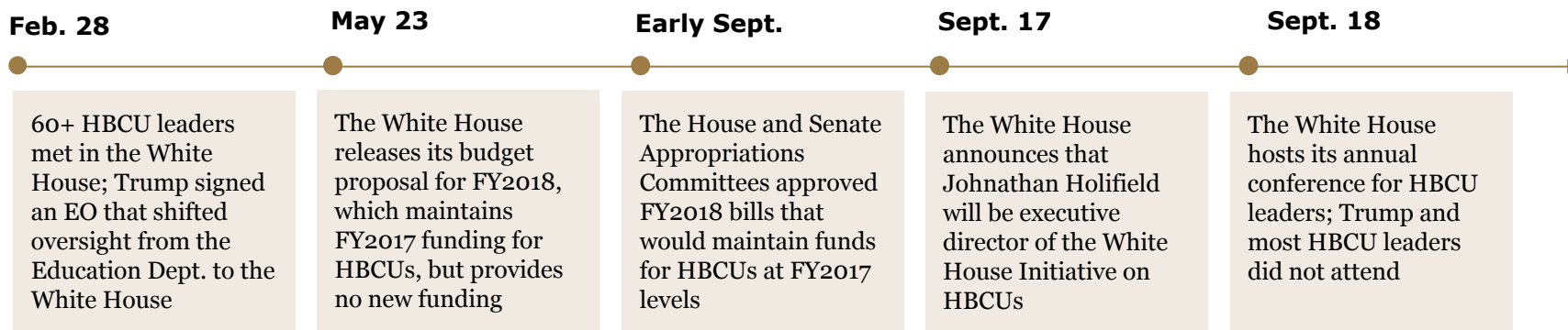


Johnathan M. Holifield

Executive Director of the White House Initiative on HBCUs (appointed Sept. 17)

Prior: Economic Development Consultant

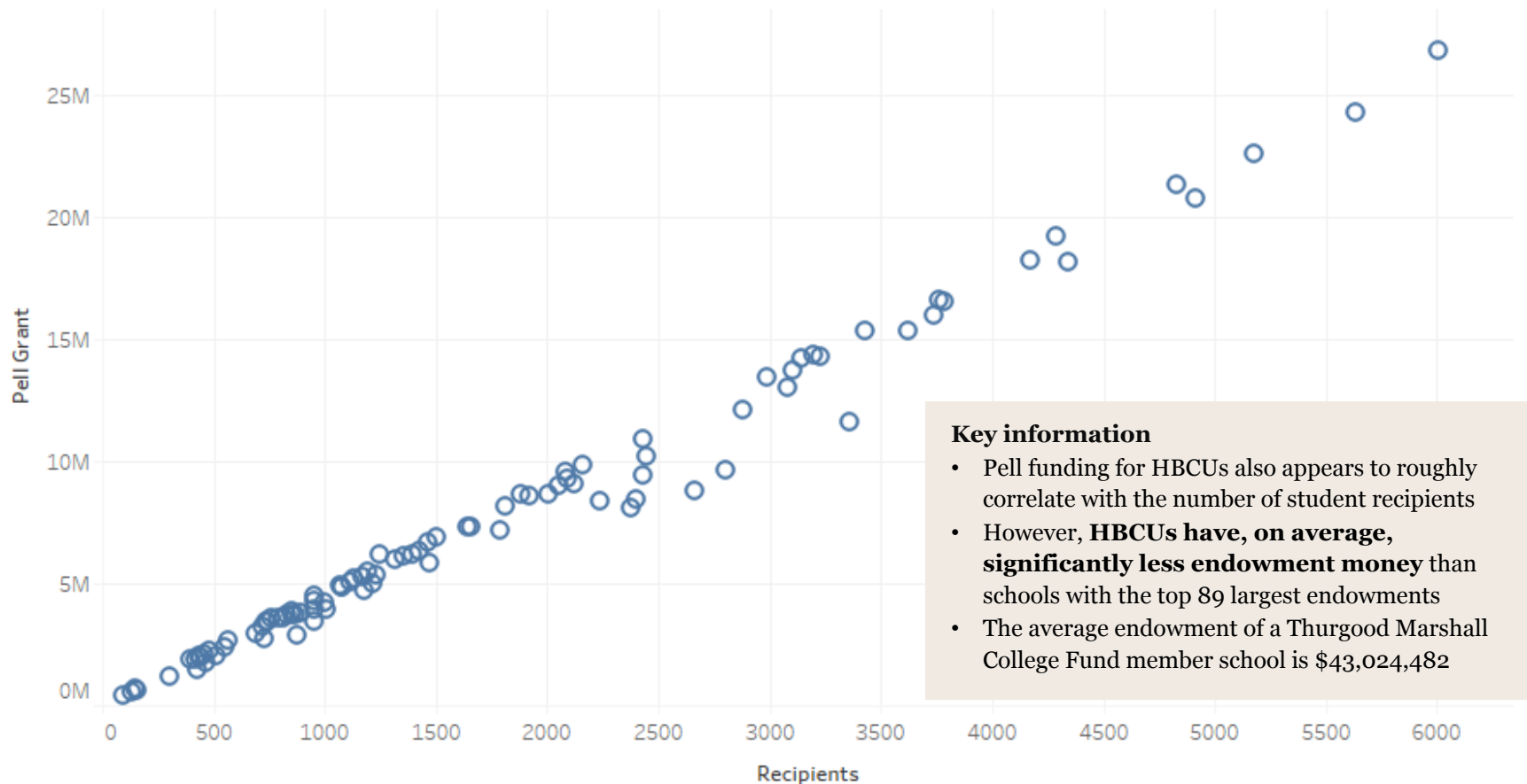
2017 timeline for HBCUs



Sources: Claudio Sanchez, "Trump, And Most Black College Presidents, Absent From Annual Meeting," NPR, Sept. 19, 2017; Eugene Scott, "Trump's pick to head his HBCU initiative has no HBCU experience," Washington Post, Sept. 19, 2017; Adam Harris, "Trump Struggles to Find a Leader for White House Initiative on Black Colleges," Chronicle of Higher Education, Jul. 25, 2017; Lauren Rosenblatt, "Trump faces questions over his promise to historically black colleges," LA Times, Sept. 15, 2017; Danielle Douglas-Gabriel, "After White House courts HBCUs, budget disappoints school leaders," Washington Post, Mar. 16, 2017.

HBCU Pell funding increases as the number of student recipients rises

Comparing Pell funding with the number of student recipients at HBCUs



Sources: Thurgood Marshall College Fund Research, 2017.

Trump said in February that HBCUs will be an “absolute priority for this White House”

What Trump’s HBCU executive order means for future funding



Trump’s HBCU executive order

- Moves the Initiative on Historically Black Colleges and Universities from the Dept. of Education to the Executive Office of the President in the White House
- Directs the Initiative to work with the private sector to strengthen the fiscal stability of HBCUs
- Directs the Initiative to make infrastructure improvements
- Directs the Initiative to provide job opportunities for students and work with secondary schools to create a college pipeline
- Directs the Initiative to find ways to increase access/opportunity for federal grants & contracts
- The executive order itself does not specify how much federal money the colleges should receive



Congressional action

- Budget: HBCU presidents are calling for \$25 billion in federal funding for infrastructure, college readiness, financial aid and other priorities
- Under President Obama’s administration, HBCUs received \$4 billion over seven years
- Thurgood Marshall College Fund President Johnny Taylor said the \$25 billion is needed to make up for years of underfunding
- There are no concrete plans yet for increased funding according to GOP lawmakers

Next steps

Sources: Errin Haines Whack, “Trump signs executive order on black colleges,” PBS, Feb. 28, 2017; Lauren Burke, “Exclusive: Omarosa Manigault on Trump’s executive order on HBCUs,” NBC, Mar 1, 2017.