

Why should an HBCU be at the top of any prospective student's list to attend?

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Recently President Trump signed an Executive Order recognizing historically Black colleges and universities (HBCUs) important contributions to higher education. Acknowledging the role HBCUs play meeting the needs of students is critical in today's society. HBCUs provide vital support systems for Black and minority students from low and moderate-income backgrounds. For instance, students that attend HBCUs excel during and after their college experience because of strong linkages between administrators, alumni, faculty, and students. According to a Gallup study, in comparison to Black alumni from predominately White institutions (PWIs), HBCUs graduates scored higher in areas including financial and social well-being. The findings suggest that students benefit from rigorous environments that center learning within cultural norms.

Replicating the HBCU experience at other post-secondary institutions is difficult. Historically they have excelled at training a new cadre of preeminent scholars in literature, political science, social activism, and STEM while protecting students from microaggressions and macroaggressions. Students considering HBCUs for undergraduate, graduate, or professional school would benefit from institutions that offer strong peer to peer relationships. Furthermore, first generation college students with limited familial and/or financial support flourish because of an extensive network of caring adults committed to their long-term success.

While HBCUs offer challenging academic courses they also aid in student's socio-emotional development. Emerging scholars develop strong bonds with classmates and faculty members that encourage students during challenging times. In addition, HBCUs provide healthy ecosystems that allow students to learn from their mistakes without a fear of failure. This is particularly important for underserved populations learning to navigate post-secondary institutions. Overall, students that matriculate at HBCUs succeed because of tradition of excellence and commitment to addressing society's most pressing issues.