**Cosponsor the *IGNITE HBCU Excellence Act***

**House Leads:** Reps.Alma S. Adams, Ph.D., French Hill

**Senate Leads:** Senators Chris Coons and Tim Scott

**Endorsing Organizations:** United Negro College Fund (UNCF), Thurgood Marshall College Fund (TMCF), National Association for Equal Opportunity in Higher Education (NAFEO)

Dear Colleague:

Congressional Bipartisan HBCU Caucus Co-Chairs Reps. Alma S. Adams, Ph.D. and French Hill invite you to cosponsor the *IGNITE HBCU Excellence Act*.

HBCUs have always been agents of equity, access, and excellence in education, especially for students of color. However, the incredible success of these institutions has been achieved despite over a century of public and private underfunding. Too often, HBCUs are forced to navigate the effects of that underfunding while also lacking access to alternate sources of capital available to other institutions.

A [June 2018 Government Accountability Office (GAO) Report](https://www.gao.gov/assets/gao-18-455.pdf) identified “extensive and diverse” capital project needs at HBCUs. The report also noted that “HBCUs continue to face challenges in securing financing to undertake needed capital projects” and that “these colleges may be unable to make the campus improvements necessary to attract and retain students, potentially jeopardizing their long-term sustainability.”

To address these critical needs, we will be introducing the bipartisan **Institutional Grants for New Infrastructure, Technology, and Education for HBCU Excellence Act *(IGNITE HBCU Excellence Act)***. This bill recognizes the contributions of HBCUs in the most important way possible: providing them the support and investment needed to deepen their transformational work.

Specifically, it provides support for HBCUs to:

· Utilize public and private investments to renovate, repair, modernize, or construct new campus facilities, including instructional, research, and residential spaces;

· Preserve buildings with historic significance;

· Ensure the resilience, safety, and sustainability of campus facilities;

· Provide access to campus-wide, reliable high-speed broadband to support digital learning and long-term technological capacity;

· Improving campus facilities to support community-based partnerships that provide students and community members with academic, health, and social services; and

· Procure equipment and technology to facilitate high-quality research and instruction.

To cosponsor the *IGNITE HBCU Excellence Act*, please [complete this form](https://forms.gle/qY43FkVPvre2hkaU8). If you have any questions, please contact Gordon Holzberg (Gordon.Holzberg@mail.house.gov) in Rep. Adams’ office or Amelia Allert (Amelia.Allert@mail.house.gov) in Rep. Hill’s office.

Sincerely,

Alma S. Adams, Ph.D. French Hill

Co-Chair, Congressional Bipartisan HBCU Caucus Co-Chair, Congressional Bipartisan HBCU Caucus