



Alabama HBCU Consortium 2022 Report  
Respectfully Submitted to the  
Alabama Commission on Higher Education  
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## Alabama HBCU Consortium Report to the Alabama Commission on Higher Education

*"The Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended, defines an HBCU 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." HBCUs offer all students, regardless of race, an opportunity to develop their skills and talents. These institutions train young people who go on to serve domestically and internationally in the professions as entrepreneurs and in the public and private sectors."*

*(Source: National Center for Education Statistics)*

Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) in Alabama have a rich and complex history. Alabama is home to several HBCUs, including Alabama A&M University, Alabama State University, and Tuskegee University. HBCUs are defined by law, and therefore, cannot increase in number unless Congress acts to designate additional institutions as HBCUs.

Today, HBCUs in Alabama continue to play an important role in providing higher education and opportunity to African American students. These institutions offer a unique campus life experience that celebrates Black culture and history, while also preparing students for successful careers in a range of fields.

Fiscal Viability of all of the Alabama HBCU's has been established as a core principle of the Consortium. When the developmental work of the Consortium started Concordia College of Selma Alabama closed. The Consortium strives to help the remaining Alabama HBCU's to maintain their strength and vibrancy.

1. Alabama A&M University
2. Alabama State University
3. Bishop State Community College
4. Gadsden State Community College
5. H. Councill Trenholm State Technical College
6. J.F. Drake State Community and Technical College
7. Lawson State Community College
8. Miles College
9. Selma University
10. Shelton State Community College (HBCU Serving Institution)
11. Stillman College
12. Talladega College
13. Tuskegee University
14. Oakwood University

It's worth noting that some of these institutions are primarily two-year colleges.

### Alabama HBCU Consortium 2022

Last year the Consortium met with the President and representatives at a majority of our HBCU institutions. During the visits to each campus (listed below) the presidents discussed and formed a loose consensus around several items. For example that the Consortium would provide assistance with grant writing and seeking out funding sources which could benefit the Consortium as a whole. It was also discussed that the Consortium could aid in the research, development and support to each institution as it sought specific funding opportunities for its unique campus and mission.

An immediate need for professional development for faculty and staff was seen as a task that the Consortium should engage both in the short and long term. Areas like incorporating internships, apprenticeships and other work-based learning opportunities for students within courses, credential and degree programs; collegiality between institution and within the framework of departments in order to enhance student growth and development; training in the techniques and strategies designed for faculty who provide training for students to improvement their passage rate on key test and certification instruments e.g, Praxis; CPA; MCAT, LSAT, etc..

There is a need for institutions to collaborate when it comes to sustaining and growing enrollment at both undergraduate and graduate levels which the Consortium and facilitate. Working together for the common interest of all institutions was explored as a critical step toward continued sustainability.

The Alabama HBCU's have a wonderful opportunity for shared resources which could be explored via regular meetings among the presidents and their respective faculty and staff.

The HBCU Consortium submitted one grant during this period. The grant was not funded.

The following universities and colleges contributed to the work of the Consortium last calendar year.

- o Alabama State University
- o Bishop State Community College
- o Trenholm State Community College
- o Tuskegee University
- o Stillman College
- o Lawson State Community College
- o Miles College
- o JF Drake Community College

The FAFSA Simplification Act, which was included in the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021, signed into law in December 2020, provided authority and funding to discharge debts held by HBCUs under the HBCU Capital Financing Program. In combination with funds provided in the American Rescue Plan, signed by President Biden on March 11, 2021, and the Coronavirus Aid,

Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act), HBCUs will also receive more than \$5 billion through the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund programs.

Since 1994, the HBCU Capital Financing Program has provided low-cost loans to finance and refinance infrastructure improvements at the nation's HBCUs.

The discharging these debts helped to enable these institutions to focus their resources on supporting students, faculty, and staff for the duration of the COVID-19 national emergency. It also allowed HBCUs to dedicate more funds to innovating the academic experience, supporting the socio-emotional development of their students, and continue as the leading producers of Black doctors and teachers during a time when the United States still needs them most.

Alabama A&M University; Alabama State University; Lawson State Community College; Miles College; Stillman College; Talladega College; and Tuskegee University, received substantial capital infrastructure debt relief from their federal loans in 2021 and 2022. All in all COVID-19 and all debt/expenditure relief funding brought over \$334 million for 13 Alabama HBCU's. The Consortium is committed to assist the Alabama HBCU's in the pursuit of federal grants and aid.

### Alabama HBCU Consortium 2023

Having hired an Executive Director, Dr. Michael A. Walker-Jones, in February, the Alabama HBCU Consortium is poised to achieve much in the coming year. Developing professional development modules for faculty and staff will be one of many priorities for the Consortium members.

As we facilitate the coming together of the President's advisory committee (a group consisting of all of the HBCU presidents) we will begin to address several needs which will enhance student achievement and enrollment sustainability. For example our ability to seek outside student scholarship funding. As a charitable organization the Alabama HBCU consortium has an ongoing mission to seek foundation, government, and individual grants and contributions which will go toward the support of students.

The Consortium has the latitude to pursue research and provide recommendations in the area of "Enrollment Management and Career" tracking systems. It's imperative that each HBCU institution maximize the career and professional preparation opportunities for all students. Utilizing systems like "Handshake, Purple Brief Case and Simplicity" will provide each institution the ability to ascertain if the software and application will help collect data in the following areas:

- ✓ Student hiring and job location
- ✓ Student work-based/experiential learning activities
- ✓ Student interaction with employers
- ✓ Employer interaction with students
- ✓ Faculty development of Work-based Learning opportunities with their courses all provide opportunities for job skill and competencies learning
- ✓ Faculty interaction with employers

## Alabama HBCU Consortium Report to the Alabama Commission on Higher Education

- ✓ Analytics across multiple data points
- ✓ Other data points of relevance for program / credentialing / career success

The Consortium will reach out to the USDOE and the Lumina Foundation Programs and become a partner in advocating for individual institution and collective funding. It will be of particular interest for funding which will increase specialty programs:

- Designed to increase the number of teachers of color by improving the PRAXIS passage rate;
- Increase the number of students who pass the MCAS at each institution such that collectively Alabama HBCU's become a growing pipeline for medical students;
- Utilize proven strategies to improve the rate that accounting students of color become CPA's for private, public and non-profit businesses in Alabama
- Reaching Curricular Efficiency and document effectiveness of programs within each institution designed to achieve LSAT / GRE / and special industry recognized credentials
- Developing innovative instructional and research tools and programs e.g.:
  - Cognitive Processing Development from young children to adults
  - Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing as it relates to modern psychotherapy treatment and medical trauma
  - Electro-magnetic levitation travel as it relates to supersonic conveyances

Our plans and goals for the up-coming year are ambitious. Yet, the endeavors we make will lead to a building up of the excellence for our HBCU institutions and increased student success.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dr. Michael A. Walker-Jones  
Executive Director