

Remarks at the White House conversation with HBCUs
President Beverly Wade Hogan
STEM Initiatives at HBCUs

Good evening, I am Beverly Wade Hogan and I have the privilege to serve as President of Tougaloo College, a private college near Jackson, Mississippi. In Mississippi, there are 5 HBCUs serving more than 17,000 students, many of whom are first generation, low income students.

First, let me express our appreciation to President Trump and his administration for reaching out to the HBCU presidents to have a conversation about our mutual efforts to advance a more prosperous nation.

Today, more than ever, the work we do at our HBCUs in producing graduates who enter the science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) fields is central to our nation's ability to remain internationally competitive, particularly in the context of our nation's shifting demographic patterns. The significant population growth will be minority and low income persons.

Occupations in STEM fields are the second fastest growing in the nation, just behind health care. And, while the nation is expected to have more STEM related jobs available in 2018, as many as three million of those might be unfilled if we do not develop a stronger pipeline to those professions.

HBCUs have instituted proven practices to assist students in STEM fields to obtain rich professional experiences, research opportunities and mentorships. As a result, HBCUs are disproportionately successful at educating African Americans in STEM fields, graduating 24 percent of all African American STEM bachelor degrees.

With more venture capital, HBCUs can be centers of innovation that experiment, pilot, evaluate and scale up best practices; drive new innovations on our campuses; and serve as best practice models for other institutions. We consider increased funding for STEM Initiatives in two areas an imperative.

The existing Department of Defense (DoD) HBCU/Minority Institutions Program provides vital support for HBCUs' faculty to conduct research in partnership with DoD military laboratories. Increased funding to \$50 million annually, a \$14 million annual increase, would expand HBCU research and development centers and diversify the group of researchers working on important national security projects.

New, targeted investment at the National Science Foundation could expand innovative models, networks, partnerships, and student and faculty research at HBCUs in order to develop a more diverse science and engineering workforce. Providing \$163 million annually would mean a \$50 million annual increase.

We thank you for this opportunity, your attention and respectfully request your support.