

**COMMENTS BY DR. HAYWOOD STRICKLAND
PRESIDENT, WILEY COLLEGE, MARSHALL, TEXAS
CHAIR, UNCF PRESIDENTS**

**HOW THE TRUMP ADMINISTRATION CAN PARTNER WITH HBCUs
TO IMPROVE COMMUNITIES**

GOOD EVENING. I AM DR. HAYWOOD STRICKLAND, PRESIDENT OF WILEY COLLEGE, WHICH IS LOCATED IN A RURAL AREA OF TEXAS IN ONE OF THE MOST DIVERSE STATES IN THE COUNTRY. LIKE, MANY OF OUR HBCUs, WILEY COLLEGE IS SITUATED IN THE HEART OF AN ECONOMICALLY-DISTRESSED COMMUNITY. WHETHER IN RURAL OR URBAN AREAS, MANY HBCUS ARE LOCATED IN COMMUNITIES WHERE THE TAX BASE CANNOT SUPPORT ADEQUATE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND/OR CRITICAL PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS.

HBCUs HAVE FUNCTIONED TO ANCHOR MANY OF THOSE COMMUNITIES AND CONTRIBUTE SUBSTANTIALLY TO THE LOCAL TAX BASE; GENERALLY, AS ONE OF THE TOP THREE EMPLOYERS IN A LOCALITY.

WE ENCOURAGE THE ADMINISTRATION TO JOIN WITH HBCUs, TO RE-IMAGINE, IN COLLABORATION WITH US, WAYS TO PROVIDE SPECIAL PURPOSE FUNDING, ACROSS SEVERAL FEDERAL AGENCIES TO STIMULATE PARTNERSHIPS WITH LOCAL CITY GOVERNMENTS, INDUSTRIES, CHURCHES, SCHOOLS, AND COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATIONS AND AGENCIES.

HBCUs HAVE TREMENDOUS EXPERIENCE IN AFFECTING POSITIVE CHANGE IN THEIR COMMUNITIES THROUGH COMMUNITY INITIATIVES, BUT REQUIRE FEDERAL SEED MONEY TO ENGAGE IN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS THAT BRING TOGETHER INSTITUTIONS, STUDENTS AND NEIGHBORHOOD ORGANIZATIONS. THE U.S. HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT (HUD) HBCU GRANT PROGRAM, LAST FUNDED IN FY 2010 THROUGH THE HUD OFFICE OF UNIVERSITY PARTNERSHIPS, OFFERS AN EXCELLENT MODEL FOR AN HBCU-FEDERAL PARTNERSHIP FOR URBAN AND RURAL REVITALIZATION, FOCUSED ON HOUSING, PUBLIC SERVICE ACTIVITIES, PUBLIC FACILITIES, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INCLUDING SKILLS TRAINING.

WE URGE YOU TO CONSIDER RE-ESTABLISHING SUCH A PROGRAM.

“THANK YOU FOR LISTENING”

OTHER SUGGESTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

- 1. Create pre-school and after-school enrichment program centers on our campuses**
- 2. Establish “Technology Places for Kids” on our campuses**
- 3. Establish Computer Technology Centers to reduce the extent of rural-isolation and also serve as a workforce training location**
- 4. Establish senior citizen wellness programs/centers on our campuses**
- 5. Establish (in rural areas) Junior Agriculture-Science Scholars Programs on our campuses, in partnership with agriculture-industries, the land-grant universities and Agriculture-research universities**
- 6. Partner with local officials to demolish deteriorating vacant structures around our campuses and replace some of them (with grant-supported) community gardens**
- 7. Serve as a site, in partnership with law enforcement training academies, for community policing relations programs**
- 8. Restore HBCUs’ participation in providing homeowner assistance to low- and moderate-income persons**
- 9. Invest in HBCUs to work with health training entities to establish family health and wellness sites on our campuses**
- 10. Invest in HBCUs to provide residential housing for older youth who are aging out of foster care and ready to transition to college and/or to employment**
- 11. Establish English as a Second Language (ESL) centers on our campuses**
- 12. Re-locate employment offices to the campuses with a dual function of serving as a Community Career Services Center**