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A photograph of a smiling Black man with a beard, wearing a grey jacket, sitting at a desk and typing on a laptop. In the background, there is a window showing a city skyline and a circular light fixture on the ceiling.

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## LETTER FROM THE PUBLISHER

Well, we made it to the end of the year! I want to wish everyone a happy holiday season as we look forward to the new year. 2020 has been a handful to say the least. We send prayers out to everyone who has been directly or indirectly affected by the pandemic raging across the country. I hear there's a new vaccine that is coming out. Let's hope things continue to trend for the better.

College campuses are still struggling with new pandemic procedures and testing protocols. There is still an air of uncertainty when it comes to your future education. Fortunately, campuses are adapting quickly as many now provide distance learning and online courses so that you can start your college career or continue your college career from the safety of your residence.

Also, just as fortunately, companies are still holding internships for the summertime so that you can get that first-hand experience in the (altered) real world. Many have also adapted to working from home and communicating via Microsoft Teams, Zoom, or other video conferencing software. Even more fortunate, we have a lot of the best internship programs on our web site waiting for someone like you to apply for them. Check them out on our web site [HBCUConnect.com](http://HBCUConnect.com).

As always, stay safe, stay healthy, and stay informed. We look forward to seeing you persevere!

HBCUCONNECT.COM – Get Connected!

Sincerely,

*Will Moss*

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# FROM HOWARD TO THE WHITE HOUSE:

KAMALA HARRIS' JOURNEY TO BECOMING VICE PRESIDENT-ELECT

**W**ell folks, it's official. Howard University grad Kamala Harris will serve as the next Vice President of the United States, making her the first woman to hold the position and the first Black and Asian American to help lead the country in this capacity.

Harris attended Howard from 1984 to 1986 and studied political science and economics. During her time at the university, she also became a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. After graduating from Howard, Harris returned to her home state to get a law degree from the University of California and began her career as a government official. From her District Attorney position to California's Attorney General to State Senator, Harris's passion for being a public servant was always evident.

During her victory speech, Harris talked about the way Black women, and all women, have paved the way for this historic moment saying, "Tonight, I reflect on their struggle, their determination, and the strength of their vision to see what can be unburdened by what has been, and I stand on their shoulders." As she stood on stage facing the world as the new Vice President-Elect, she proudly declared, "while I may be the first woman in this office, I will not be the last."



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# Georgia On My Mind

**T**his election season will go down in history for many reasons, and it is not even over yet! As if the record number of nationwide early voters was not monumental enough, Georgia, a historically Republican red state, turned Democratic blue when it came to the Presidential election. This momentous state-wide transformation was helmed by Spelman College graduate Stacey Abrams and her organization Fair Fight. Created to increase voter participation and fight voter suppression in Georgia and all over the country, Abrams' organization has worked to register over 800,000 first time voters in the past two years and has encouraged more Black voters to exercise their right to vote.

While the state has already determined who will be occupying the White House for the next four years, two major races in Georgia remain uncalled. In both Senate races for the state, neither of the four candidates reached a 51% majority, so there will be a runoff in January to determine what two people will be representing GA in the U.S. Senate. Democrat and Morehouse grad Raphael Warnock will face off with Republican, and incumbent Kelly Loeffler will face off in one race. In the other race, Democrat Jon Ossoff will face off with Republican and incumbent David Perdue. Being that these races will determine who holds power in the U.S. Senate, all eyes are on the state of Georgia.

For all of our Georgia readers, be sure to do your part and participate in this election. The runoffs will take place on January 5th.

## Beyonce and Peloton Team Up to Help HBCU Students Get in Formation



Are you looking to get rid of your freshman 15? Or shed the effects of your social distancing snacks? Well, Beyonce has got you covered! The Queen Bey has teamed up with popular fitness platform, Peloton to bring a homecoming themed workout to a living room near you. This partnership not only means that Peloton's workouts will include Beyoncé's hit songs, but it also means that HBCU students will gain access to a fitness service that they may not have been able to afford otherwise.



**Peloton**   
@onepeloton

...

It's showtime, Peloton. The @Beyonce Artist Series has arrived. Get ready to ride, run, lift, flow, sing, love and celebrate the power of music all week long. Check out the live schedule to elevate your next sweat—Beyoncé style.

Through this collaboration, Peloton will be offering free two-year membership for students at 10 HBCUs across the country. Through this membership, students will have access to the full Peloton fitness library. So, tell me, are you ready to get in formation?





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# TOP BLACK ATHLETES CHOOSING TO ATTEND HBCUS

**IT IS NO SECRET** that top Black athletes have often chosen to attend predominately white Division I schools for the sake of more exposure, opportunity, and funding, but it looks like that trend is turning in favor of HBCUs. Several top recruits for a range of different sports are choosing to attend Historically Black institutions.

One of the most sought-after basketball five-star recruits in the nation, Makur Maker, turned down several Division I schools and decided to attend Howard University. In a tweet explaining his decision, Maker said, "I need to make the HBCU movement real, so that others will follow."

Top volleyball recruit Colleen Temple also decided to attend Howard University instead of the University of Hawaii where she previously committed. When asked why she ultimately picked Howard over Hawaii, Temple told HBCU Gameday, "Over the past few months I've done a lot of reflection, and I know that Hawaii is a top tier school, but I just couldn't see myself anywhere but an HBCU. And to me, Howard fulfills everything that I could want from a school. That's including athletics, academics, and location."

Four-star recruit Isaiah Bolden recently decided to transfer from Florida State to Jackson State. When asked why he decided to transfer, Bolden said, "I want to be part of the change. It's going to take more than me to make the change, but at least I can help toward making the change. I'm taking on the responsibility to show recruits and transfers that you can come to an HBCU and get to the league. Me being a part of that change is a big thing for me."

Four-star basketball recruit Se'Quoia Allmond also decided that Jackson State is the school for her. In an interview with Memphis Commercial Appeal, Allmond said, "I like to start trends. And it might not be today or tomorrow, or even this year, but eventually, people are going to start catching on and moving to HBCUs so that's the plan."

## *Tis The Season To Give* ...to an HBCU

**Here a few celebrities, companies, and organizations that have recently contributed financially to Historically Black Colleges and Universities:**



Lincoln University and Elizabeth City State University received a \$50,000 endowment from Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.

Basketball superstar Charles Barkley pledged \$1 million to Tuskegee University.

Philanthropist MacKenzie Scott donated \$20 million each to Hampton University, Howard University, Morehouse College, Spelman College, Tuskegee University, and Xavier University of Louisiana.

Robert F. Smith, billionaire and CEO of Vista Equity Partners donated \$50 million to the Student Freedom Initiative, a charity that helps HBCU students with student loans and debt.

Superstar rapper 2 Chains announced last month that he would be launching a program to help HBCU students who double as business owners. In a video posted to his social media platforms, the Virginia State graduate said, "If you are an HBCU student and you currently have a business that's up and running, I created the Money Maker Fund. I would like to invest into your business, your idea."



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You know the holiday season is right around the corner when you start hearing Christmas music playing in every store and when there is a Christmas movie playing on every other channel. If you are looking for a Black centered Christmas story and want to support a fellow HBCU graduate, be sure to check out David E. Talbert's new film *Jingle Jangle: A Christmas Journey* on Netflix.

The film tells the story of an eccentric toymaker, his adventurous granddaughter, and a magical invention that has the power to change their lives forever. With a star-studded cast featuring Forest Whitaker, Keegan-Michael Key, Anika Noni Rose, and Phylicia Rashad, the performances do not disappoint.

During a Q&A with Morgan State University students, alumni, and staff, Talbert said, "I wanted it to be something for everybody. It'll be out for Thanksgiving. That's when we all get together to tear up some candied yams, collard greens, and ham. I wanted it to be something where the grandmother, the mother, and the kids, and everybody could watch as a family."

From the storyline down to the soundtrack, *Jingle Jangle* will undoubtedly get you in the holiday spirit. Be sure to check out the film, which is now playing on Netflix.



# MORRIS BROWN COLLEGE ON TRACK TO REGAIN ITS ACCREDITATION AFTER 20 YEARS

**Morris Brown President, Dr. Kevin James, recently announced that the college's application with the Transnational Association of Christian Colleges and Schools (TRACS) had been approved.**

After being founded in 1881, Morris Brown College was just one of the thriving HBCU campuses that made up the Atlanta University Center Consortium (AUCC), a core group of neighboring HBCUs that included Clark Atlanta University, Morehouse College, and Spelman College.

In 2002, however, Morris Brown was forced to withdraw from the AUC following the institution losing its accreditation. Since then, Morris Brown staff, alumni, and fellow members of the AUC have been working to get the school back to where it once was.

In a statement to The Associated Press (AP), President James said, "This is history in the making. Morris Brown intends to become the first HBCU to earn its accreditation back twenty years after losing it. When Morris Brown achieves candidacy status, hopefully by April 2021, it will give the college all the rights of a fully accredited college, which allows students to receive federal financial aid. Additionally, student degrees will be recognized by other schools and/or employers."



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# WHAT CAN HBCUS EXPECT UNDER THIS NEW ADMINISTRATION?

During his campaign, Joe Biden and Kamala Harris repeatedly spoke about their plans for college students and graduates and, more specifically, about those who attended HBCUs. According to his higher education plan, here is what we can expect under this upcoming administration:

**1** Make Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), Tribal Colleges and Universities (TCUs), and under-resourced Minority Serving Institutions (MSIs) more affordable for their students by investing \$18 billion in grants to these four-year schools, equivalent to up to two years of tuition per low-income and middle-class student, including DREAMers and students who transfer to a four-year HBCU, TCU, or MSI from a tuition-free community college. He will then invest additional funds in private, non-profit HBCUs, TCUs, and under-resourced MSIs, so they are not undermined by the Biden proposal to make four-year public colleges and universities tuition-free.

**2** Invest in the diverse talent at HBCUs, TCUs, and MSIs to solve the country's most pressing problems by investing \$10 billion to create at least 200 new centers of excellence that serve as research incubators and connect students underrepresented in fields critical to our nation's future – including fields tackling climate change, globalization, inequality, health disparities, and cancer – to learning and career opportunities.

**3** Build the high-tech labs and facilities and digital infrastructure needed for learning, research, and innovation at HBCUs, TCUs, and MSIs by investing \$20 billion in infrastructure for HBCUs, TCUs, and MSIs to build the physical research facilities and labs urgently needed to deliver on the country's research and development, to update and modernize deteriorating facilities.

**4** Provide support to continuously improve the value of HBCUs, TCUs, and MSIs by investing \$10 billion in programs that increase enrollment, retention, completion, and employment rates.

**5** Expand career pathways for graduates of HBCUs, TCUs, and MSIs in areas that meet national priorities, including building a diverse pipeline of public-school teachers by investing \$5 billion in graduate programs in teaching, health care, and STEM and will develop robust internship and career pipelines at major research agencies, including Department of Energy National Laboratories, National Institutes of Health, National Science Foundation, and the Department of Defense.

**6** Triple and make permanent the capacity-building and student support for HBCUs, TCUs, and MSIs in Title III and Title V of the Higher Education Act. These funds serve as a lifeline to under-resourced HBCUs, TCUs, and MSIs year over year, ensuring that the most vulnerable students have the support they need to succeed.

**7** Reduce disparities in funding for HBCUs, TCUs, and MSIs. When inequities exist between HBCUs, TCUs, and MSIs and similar non-HBCU, TCU, MSI colleges, federal agencies, and states will be required to publish robust rationale and show improvements in eliminating disparities year over year.



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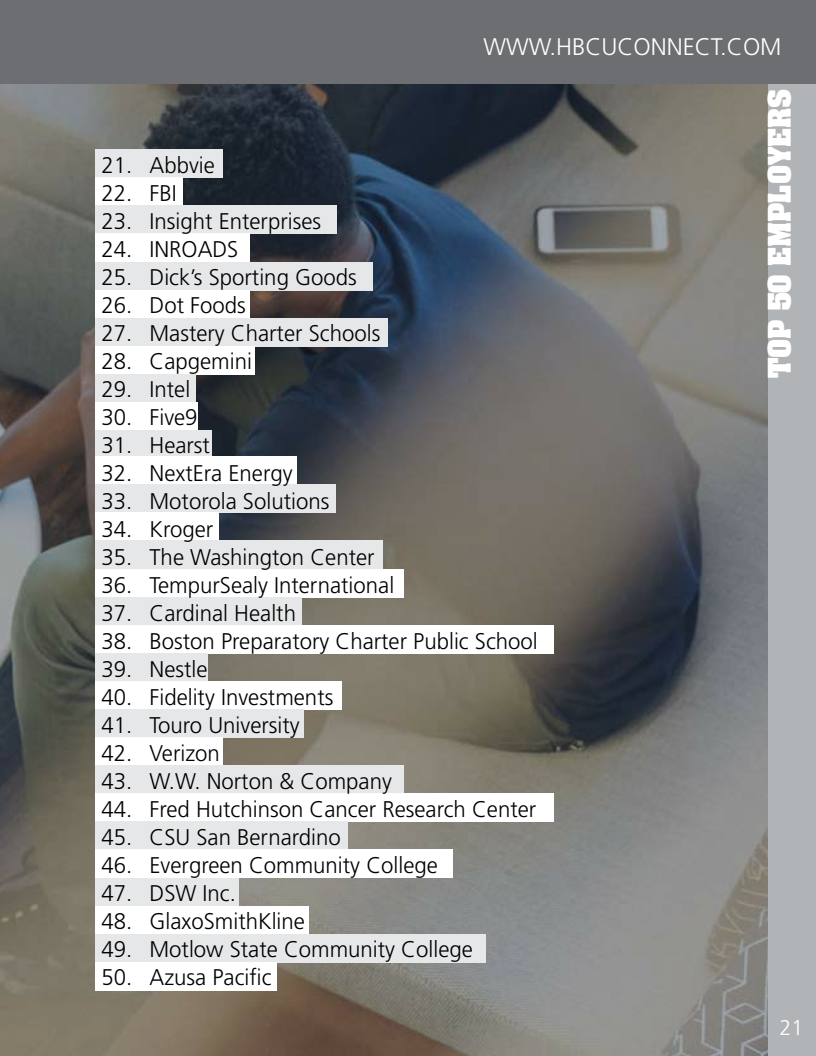
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2. Amazon
3. JPMorgan Chase
4. AMD
5. Walgreens
6. U.S. Coast Guard
7. Wells Fargo
8. Best Buy
9. Nintendo of America
10. X, The Moonshot Factory
11. Sage
12. Sanofi
13. Danaher
14. Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory
15. Fivetran
16. VHB
17. CBRE
18. Pfizer
19. Vanderbilt Health
20. 84.51

- 
- A person with dark hair is lying on their back on a light-colored couch. They are wearing a dark blue t-shirt and green pants. A white smartphone is lying on the couch next to their head. The background is a blurred indoor setting.
21. Abbvie
  22. FBI
  23. Insight Enterprises
  24. INROADS
  25. Dick's Sporting Goods
  26. Dot Foods
  27. Mastery Charter Schools
  28. Capgemini
  29. Intel
  30. Five9
  31. Hearst
  32. NextEra Energy
  33. Motorola Solutions
  34. Kroger
  35. The Washington Center
  36. TempurSealy International
  37. Cardinal Health
  38. Boston Preparatory Charter Public School
  39. Nestle
  40. Fidelity Investments
  41. Touro University
  42. Verizon
  43. W.W. Norton & Company
  44. Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center
  45. CSU San Bernardino
  46. Evergreen Community College
  47. DSW Inc.
  48. GlaxoSmithKline
  49. Motlow State Community College
  50. Azusa Pacific

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