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FALL WINTER 2022

*on campus*



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## LETTER FROM THE PUBLISHER

Well, folks, we've made it to the last quarter of the year, and it seems like 2022 has flown by! I want to wish everyone a happy holiday season as we look forward to the new year.

Despite all of the craziness that has been going on in the world this year, HBCUs have continued to grow and thrive. Not only are our beloved institutions receiving record donations and funds, but they are also experiencing record enrollment!

And how can I forget, 2022 brought us the return of HBCU Homecoming! There's nothing like seeing students and alumni flood our campuses, beaming with pride to help you remember why attending an HBCU was the best decision you could have ever made.

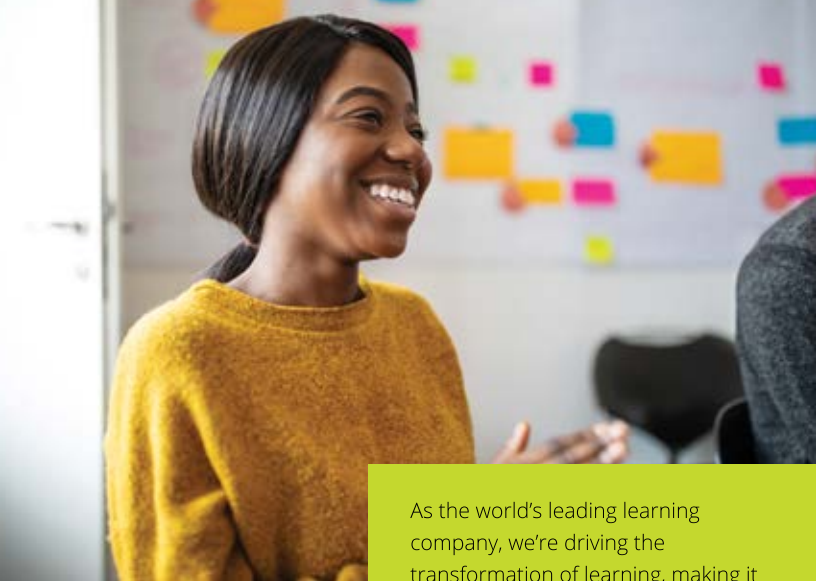
With this being the last issue of the year, I just want to say thank you for your continued support of HBCUCONNECT.COM. It means more than you know!

Happy holidays, stay safe, stay healthy, and enjoy this issue of HBCU CONNECT On Campus magazine.

Sincerely,

*Will Moss*

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## ‘Tis The Season to Give to an HBCU

**T**he HBCU giving fest is in full effect. During a worldwide pandemic, HBCUs received record donations from companies and individuals in 2020. Mackenzie Scott, the philanthropist and ex-wife of Amazon founder Jeff Bezos, donated a whopping \$560 million to more than 20 HBCUs. Reed Hastings, CEO of Netflix, and his wife, Patty Quillin, made a generous donation of \$120 million to be divided equally amongst Morehouse College, Spelman College, and UNCF, and later an additional \$10 million to Tougaloo College. It's now 2022, and the season of generosity toward HBCUs continues.

**Simons Foundation** announced a \$5.7 million grant to Spelman College to support STEM education and research.

**CHI St. Vincent** donated \$1.1 million to the nursing department at the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff. The donation will help to provide educational and financial support to students and faculty, medical training, professional development, and recruitment.

**Travis Scott**, rapper, singer, songwriter, and record producer, awarded 100 HBCU students a total of \$1 million in scholarships through his Waymon Webster Scholarship Fund. The scholarships were awarded to seniors who maintained a minimum 3.5 GPA.

**Charles Barkley**, former professional basketball player, and tv sports analyst, recently donated \$1 million to Spelman College after seeing the school's positive effect on his business partner's daughter.

**American Rescue Plan** 100 HBCUs benefited from the \$2.7 billion American Rescue Plan Investment in HBCUs. The federal funds were provided through the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund. The funding is well deserved, considering the government's long history of underfunding HBCUs compared to predominantly white institutions (PWIs).

**Ja Rule and Herb Rice's** company, The Painted House, is donating \$25,000 to HBCU partners. Proceeds will come from sales of their first NFT project Black is Beautiful.

**Missy Elliott**, rapper, singer, songwriter, and record producer, donated \$20,000 to the Atlanta Chapter of the National Hampton Alumni Association (NHAA) to fund scholarships for students attending Hampton University.

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# Women Taking The Reins Over HBCU Sports Departments

It's no secret that men have traditionally held most Athletic Director positions at HBCUs. It's been 50 years since the passing of Title IX (a civil rights law that prohibits sex-based discrimination in schools and education programs that receive federal funding), and things are changing. Today, we celebrate five phenomenal women who have broken the glass ceiling and are leading their university's athletics with excellence.

## **Alecia Shields-Gadson**

*Director of Athletics at Delaware State University*

Shields-Gadson has nearly 30 years of experience in intercollegiate athletics as a senior-level administrator and head coach. In addition to her Director of Athletics position, she holds a four-year term-appointed position as a member of the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Division I Council.

## **Dr. Ingrid Wicker-McCree**

*Athletic Director at North Carolina Central University*

Wicker-McCree has 13 years of service and leadership of NCCU's Department of Athletics. She recently announced that she would step down from her post at the end of Spring 2022 to pursue other interests. She was instrumental in NCCU's Athletics Program transition from Division II to Division I.

## **Melody Webb**

*Athletic Director at Norfolk State University*

Webb made history in 2020 by becoming the school's first female Athletic Director and one of just two female athletic directors in the Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference (MEAC). She joined NSU in April 2014 as Senior Associate Athletics Director for Administration and Senior Women's Administrator.

## **Daphne Johnson**

*Vice President/Director of Athletics of Clinton College*

Johnson came from Elizabeth City State University, where she was responsible for guiding the women's basketball team to the 2019 CIAA semifinals in her second year as Associate Head Coach. She also served as Assistant Coach at St. Augustine's University in Raleigh, North Carolina.

## **Tiffany Dawn Sykes**

*Vice President and Director of Intercollegiate Athletics at Florida A&M University*

Sykes recently joined FAMU after serving as Executive Senior Associate Athletic Director for Varsity Sports and Senior Woman Administrator at Dartmouth College in New Hampshire. She also served as Senior Woman Administrator at both Saint Paul's College and Virginia Union University.



*Congratulations to these women trailblazing the path to positions of athletic leadership. They are making history and leading their universities' athletics in excellence.*

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## SpelHouse Takes Georgia



**S**pelman College alumna Stacey Abrams and Morehouse College graduate Reverend Raphael Warnock are both on the ballot in Georgia! Abrams is running with the hopes of becoming the first Black governor in her home state, and Warnock is fighting to keep his Senate seat after becoming the first Black senator to represent his home state.

Stacey Yvonne Abrams is a lawyer, voting rights activist, and author that is shaking this country up. While at Spelman, she had an interdisciplinary study major that encompassed political science, economics, and sociology. After Spelman, Abrams went on to pursue a master's degree at the University of Texas at Austin and a J.D. from Yale Law School.

Abrams and her organization Fair Fight, no doubt, played a massive role in flipping Georgia, a historically red state, blue during the 2020 Presidential Election and again during the 2021 Senate Run-Off elections. Abrams' efforts led to Democrats gaining control of both the House of Representatives and the Senate, in addition to the Presidency.

Warnock grew up in a housing project in Savannah, Georgia, as the 11th of 12 children. Inspired by the life and work of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Warnock went on to attend Morehouse College and earned a degree in Psychology. After serving as a reverend at Ebenezer Baptist Church in Atlanta, Dr. King's former church, for 15 years, Warnock decided to run for U.S. Senate in January 2020. After duking it out with a Republican incumbent in a run-off race, Warnock's win in 2021 drastically changed who holds power in the U.S. Senate.

We wish our fellow HBCU graduates nothing but the best and encourage everyone to get out and vote this November!



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### Meet an Intern



*"As a child of immigrants, I never felt secure in my future, but with the support from this scholarship and mentorship, I will be able to begin to pave the way with what I want to do with my education while also having another layer of support within my success when beginning my undergraduate journey."*

- Manuel R.

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Glassdoor Ratings

Instagram

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## President Joe Biden's Student Loan Debt Forgiveness



**T**he U.S. Department of Education announced a final extension of the pause on student loan repayment, interest, and collections through December 31, 2022. Borrowers should plan to resume payments in January 2023. While the economy continues to improve, COVID cases remain elevated. The President has clarified that pandemic-related relief should be phased out responsibly, so people do not suffer unnecessary financial harm.

To address the financial harms of the pandemic by smoothing the transition back to repayment and helping borrowers at the highest risk of delinquencies or default once payments resume, the Department will provide targeted student debt cancellation to borrowers with loans held by the Department of Education. Borrowers with annual income during the pandemic of under \$125,000 (for individuals) or under \$250,000 (for married couples or heads of households) who received a Pell Grant in college will be eligible for up to \$20,000 in debt cancellation. Borrowers who met those income standards but did not receive a Pell Grant will be eligible for up to \$10,000 in relief. Nearly 8 million borrowers may be eligible to receive relief automatically because relevant income data is already available to the Department.

The new student loan debt relief application is now open. Visit [StudentAid.gov](https://StudentAid.gov) to fill it out today!



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# FAMU Students File Federal Lawsuit Alleging Discrimination and Inequitable Funding

**S**ix Florida A&M University students filed a class action lawsuit last month against the Board of Governors for the State University System of Florida, Marshall M. Criser III, its chancellor, and the state of Florida. The lawsuit alleges racial discrimination and inequitable funding of FAMU compared to traditionally white institutions (TWIs).

According to court documents, Florida and the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Civil Rights (“OCR”) entered into a five-year Partnership Agreement in 1998 to increase access for minority students at all levels of education and disestablish Florida’s segregated system of higher education. The OCR found that Florida lacked access, retention/graduation, and financing for and of minority students. In 2003, the defendant issued a report claiming all partnership agreements were met, but that was not the case. The new lawsuit cites continued inequitable funding- FAMU’s \$110 million in state appropriations in 2019 amounted to \$11,450 per student, compared to the \$785 million received by the University of Florida (TWI), which amounted to \$14,984 per student. The plaintiffs are demanding a trial by jury.

A similar lawsuit was settled in 2021 in the state of Maryland. After 15 years of wrangling, the state’s four HBCUs were awarded \$577 million over the next decade. We hope that this is just the beginning of HBCUs receiving the funding owed to them.

**Black women aged 18-30,  
YOU are the change agents  
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*...so, are you  
ready to lead?*

**My Sister's Keeper (MSK)** is a Black Women's Health Imperative signature program created to support young Black women as they evolve into powerful advocates and leaders.

MSK is a national program that centers on sexual and reproductive health, rights, and justice, mental and emotional health, menstrual insecurity and stigma, gender discrimination and violence, anti-racism and allyship advocacy, and anti-tobacco, smoking, and vaping work.

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## Top 50 Employers for HBCU Students



1. Microsoft
2. ServiceNow
3. Johnson & Johnson
4. American Express
5. Deloitte Services LP
6. Bristol Myers Squibb
7. LinkedIn
8. Visa
9. Providence Health and Services
10. PriceWaterhouseCoopers
11. Coupa Software
12. JPMorgan Chase
13. Kroger
14. LULU Lemon
15. Agilent Technologies
16. FBI
17. CBRE
18. Fidelity Investments
19. Wells Fargo
20. Guardant Health
21. Walgreens
22. Giant Eagle
23. Veteran's Health Administration
24. Pearson
25. Truist Financial Corp.
26. GE Appliances
27. Hackensack Meridian Health
28. Ansys
29. Deutsche Bank
30. Vanderbilt University  
Medical Center
31. VHB
32. Amazon
33. Verizon
34. Best Buy
35. Palo Alto Networks
36. Wayfair
37. Nintendo
38. UVA Health
39. Albemarle Corp.
40. NextEra Energy
41. Schneider Electric
42. Premier, Inc.
43. Alliance Bernstein
44. University of New Mexico  
Health
45. Danaher
46. NFP Corp.
47. Bunge Limited
48. Tetrattech
49. Sinclair Broadcast Group
50. Seagen



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## HBCU Classics

Name of Classic	Time	Date
MACON CENTRAL CITY HBCU FOOTBALL CLASSIC Savannah State vs. Fort Valley State in Macon, GA	TBA	10/29/22
MAGIC CITY CLASSIC Alabama A&M vs. Alabama State in Birmingham, AL	2:30pm CT	10/29/22
RALEIGH CLASSIC Shaw vs. Saint Augustine's in Durham, NC	1:00pm ET	11/5/22
COMMEMORATIVE CLASSIC Livingstone vs. Johnson C. Smith in Salisbury, NC	1:30pm ET	11/5/22
FOUNTAIN CITY CLASSIC Albany State vs. Fort Valley State in Columbus, GA	2:00pm ET	11/5/22
CIAA CHAMPIONSHIP CIAA North Champion vs. CIAA South Champion in Salem, VA	TBA	11/12/22
SIAC CHAMPIONSHIP SIAC East Champion vs. SIAC West Champion in TBD	TBA	11/12/22
AME FOOTBALL CLASSIC Edward Waters vs. Allen in Jacksonville, FL	2:00pm ET	11/12/22
GULF COAST CHALLENGE Alabama A&M vs. Jackson State in Mobile, AL	4:00pm CT	11/12/22
FLORIDA CLASSIC Bethune-Cookman vs. Florida A&M in Orlando, FL	TBD	11/19/22
TURKEY DAY CLASSIC Alabama State vs. Arkansas-Pine Bluff in Montgomery, AL	2:00pm CT	11/24/22
BAYOU CLASSIC Southern vs. Grambling State in New Orleans, LA	1:00pm CT	11/26/22
SWAC CHAMPIONSHIP SWAC East Champion vs. SWAC West Champion in TBA	TBD	12/3/22



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