

# HBCU CONNECT

*on campus*

SPRING/SUMMER 2025



**MISS NEW  
JERSEY 2025  
IS AN HBCU GRAD**

**MOREHOUSE  
GRADS** FILMING  
HORROR MOVIE

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IN THE U.S.**

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# FEATURES

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## LETTER FROM THE PUBLISHER

LETTER FROM THE PUBLISHER

Welcome back to another edition of the HBCUConnect OnCampus Student Magazine and welcome back warm weather for those in the cold weather states. This is the time of year for graduations, internships, and high school students start dreaming about summer vacation. But before we do all that, we invite you to think about your goals that you have set for yourself and then think about the last 6 months and what you have done since to get closer to your goals. Now is the time to start these next 6 months on the right foot. If things are moving slowly, think about why it is moving slow and what can you adjust to get back on track. It's never too late to start, so let's get to it.

Speaking of not being too late, internship opportunities are still on the board for college students. Check out all of the live internship postings on our web site's career center. Companies are still processing potential candidates and are looking for multiple candidates for various positions depending on your skillset and major.

We hope you enjoy the magazine and thank you for being a continued supporter of ours.

HBCUCONNECT.COM – Get Connected!

Sincerely,

*Will Moss*

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# HBCU STUDENTS SHOW BETTER MENTAL HEALTH OUTCOMES

Despite Support Gaps, New Report Finds

**B**lack students at Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) and Predominantly Black Institutions (PBIs) experience better mental health outcomes in several key areas compared to their peers at other institutions, while also facing distinct challenges that require attention.

A new report titled “Community, Culture, and Care: A Cross-Institutional Analysis of Mental Health Among HBCU and PBI Students,” the report was developed in partnership with the United Negro College Fund Institute for Capacity Building, the Steve Fund, and the Healthy Minds Network.

Examining responses from 2,504 students across 16 HBCUs and two PBIs revealed significant differences in mental health metrics compared to national averages:

- **45% of HBCU/PBI students reported flourishing mentally**, compared to 36% of college students nationally.
- **83% reported a sense of belonging** in their campus community, versus 73% nationally.
- **HBCU/PBI students showed significantly lower rates of anxiety, eating disorders, and substance use** compared to national averages.

Despite these notably positive outcomes in several areas, crucial gaps and pressing challenges emerged from the data.

Financial concerns topped the list of stressors, with more than half of students reporting their financial situation as “always” or “often” stressful. The impact proved significant: 78% of financially stressed students experienced mental health problems, compared to just 26% of those who were financially secure. More than a quarter of students reporting high levels of financial stress also reported suicidal ideation in the past year.

A crucial gap in mental health support was also identified, with 54% of HBCU students reporting unmet mental health needs—significantly higher than the national average of 41%.

*You can read the report for yourself at: <https://uncfibc.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/healthymindstudycommunitycultureandcare.pdf>*



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Tennis usta

USTA   
SOUTHERN

# Norfolk State University GRADUATE LAUNCHES AS A PUBLISHED AUTHOR



Norfolk State University alumna, Melisande Corlett published her first novel, *Before the Sunrise*, which is a mystery novel written with the young adult reader in mind.

*Before the Sunrise* is about Jasaiah Sanchez, a small-town girl with a curiosity that far exceeds the confines of St. Martinville. Alongside her childhood best friend, Crisstiana, whose vibrant personality complements her own, they eagerly await the adventures that lie ahead. However, a sinister presence shadows their town, threatening the safety of the young adolescents who call it home. As suspicion rises, Jasaiah's world is about to take a dramatic turn with a one-way ticket promise to a new life on the horizon.

What thrilling twists await Jasaiah as she navigates this treacherous journey? The anticipation is electrifying.

**Order your copy of *Before the Sunrise* today at [www.lulu.com](http://www.lulu.com).**

*Before the Sunrise* is also available with Amazon, Barnes & Noble, Kindle, Kobo, iBooks and Ingram.



## MOREHOUSE MEN NEW FACES OF HORROR

**R**onald "Sully" Sullivan, Adisa Iwa, Raynal "Shaka" Harris, and Ajamoo Raheem Kemet—four visionaries, four Morehouse Men, forged in the crucible of excellence at one of the nation's most esteemed institutions. Their paths diverged after graduation—Sully pursued justice at Harvard Law, Raheem expanded his intellect at Morgan State, Shaka honed his skills at the University of Michigan, and Adisa took his talents straight to Los Angeles, carving out a name in television. But destiny had a larger plan.

This June, the Morehouse brotherhood is set to make its mark on the horror genre in a way never seen before. These visionaries will begin filming *Unplugged*—a spine-chilling horror story born in the depths of the COVID era. By writing, directing, casting, and producing *Unplugged* independently, this Morehouse collective is keeping alive the Spike Lee model—the same fearless approach that made Lee, a fellow Morehouse graduate, a cinematic icon.

Casting for *Unplugged* is taking place now in Atlanta, Georgia.

For information, email [casting@unpluggedmovies.com](mailto:casting@unpluggedmovies.com).



2025 HBCU  
CONNECT

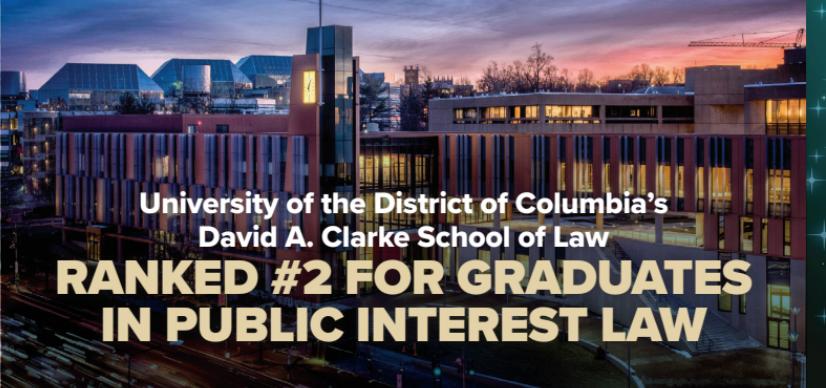
# Annual CONFERENCE & CAREER FAIR



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**University of the District of Columbia's  
David A. Clarke School of Law**

**RANKED #2 FOR GRADUATES  
IN PUBLIC INTEREST LAW**

The University of the District of Columbia David A. Clarke School of Law (UDC Law), the only public law school in the nation's capital and one of only six HBCU law schools in the country, has once again been recognized among the top institutions for legal education. In the U.S. News & World Report rankings, UDC Law is ranked #2 in the nation for the percentage of graduates entering public interest careers and #19 for clinical training.

"Since its founding, UDC Law has stood out as a place where the law is taught not only as a profession, but as a powerful tool for community change," says UDC Law Interim Dean Angela Gilmore. "This ranking reflects the dedication of our students, faculty, staff and alumni who continue to advance access to justice and expand the reach of legal services in the communities that need them most."

UDC Law is also one of the most accessible and affordable law schools in the nation. More than 90% of students receive financial aid or scholarships, and the school offers both full-time and part-time evening programs, making UDC Law a standout choice for those seeking to build careers in service of the public good.

Former Morgan State University Woman Basketball Player,

## IVY HARRINGTON, NAMED MISS NEW JERSEY USA 2025



IVY HARRINGTON, NAMED MISS NEW JERSEY USA 2025

**A** former HBCU women's basketball player has won the 2025 Miss New Jersey USA pageant. Ivy Harrington played for the Morgan State Bears for 4 seasons that ended in 2017. At 5'7", she came out of Neptune Township, New Jersey and started her playing career as a guard. She was known for her hustle and team-first mentality which carried over to her life after basketball.

She currently works as a social media manager for West Windsor-Plainsboro Regional School District and leads a mentorship program called MVP (Most Valuable Pivot) which focuses on young women in sports. "Whether it be on the local, collegiate, or professional level, I want to teach female athletes to become the architects of their identity outside their athletic jersey" she said.

She began competing in pageants in 2021 and now since she prepares for a shot at Miss USA 2025, she will be once again representing her home state and HBCU with pride. The date for the 74th edition of the Miss USA competition will be named at a later date.



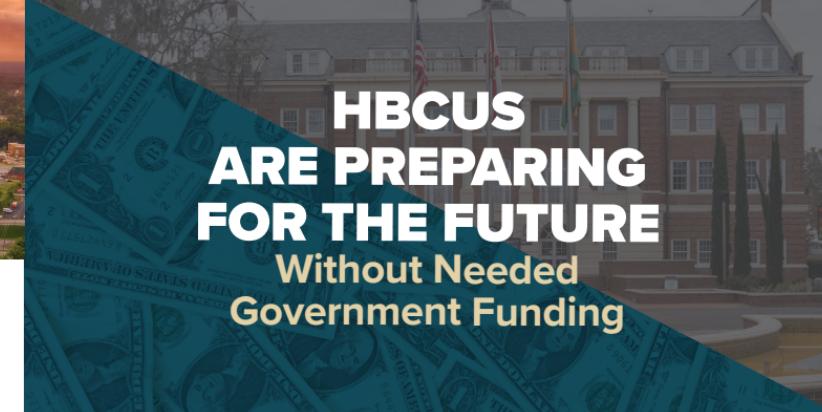
US NEWS & WORLD REPORT:

## THE BEST 10 HBCUS IN THE U.S. FOR 2025

The U.S. News & World Report released their 2025 HBCU rankings for 2025. In this list, the schools were ranked against each other and only qualified if they were currently designated by the U.S. Department of Education, which President Donald Trump is actively trying to dismantle. The school also must be an undergraduate institution that enrolls primarily first-year, first-time students.

1. Spelman College (Atlanta, GA)
2. Howard University (Washington, DC)
3. Florida A&M University (Tallahassee, FL)
4. Tuskegee University (Tuskegee, AL)
5. Morehouse College (Atlanta, GA)
6. Xavier University of Louisiana (New Orleans, LA)
7. Hampton University (Hampton, VA)
8. North Carolina A&T State University (Greensboro, NC)
9. Delaware State University (Dover, DE)
10. Morgan State University (Baltimore, MD)

Just missing the cut are Bowie State University, Claflin University, Winston-Salem State University, and Elizabeth City State University.



# HBCUS ARE PREPARING FOR THE FUTURE

## Without Needed Government Funding

HBCUS ARE PREPARING FOR THE FUTURE

As the battle rages across the country over funding, cuts, and job eliminations, some HBCUs are starting to feel the heat from the most recent political decisions made by President Trump and his administration. Florida A&M University lost as much as \$16 million in federal grants this year while other schools are dealing with threatened cuts to federal and state funds where typically 54% of a school's total revenue is attributed to.

As far as HBCU students go, 73% receive Pell Grants and are now in danger of becoming eliminated. In all, roughly 300,000 students attend HBCUs across 19 states. In response, some schools have been launching fundraising initiatives to match the amount that schools would have typically received, like Johnson C. Smith University.

Black colleges contribute around \$15 billion to their local economies as well as job opportunities and placement, but in a 2023 federal education data report, 18 HBCUs were among the top 30 schools most reliant on federal funds for operating revenues.

The background of the advertisement is a close-up photograph of a smiling Black woman with short hair. She is looking towards the right. In the background, another person with glasses is visible but out of focus. The overall tone is professional and positive.

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# HBCU STUDENT HONORS NICK CANNON, Who Once Helped Him Pay Off Student Loans

Christian Kornegay was a student at North Carolina A&T State University in 2021 and was struggling to pay his student loans at the time. He was one of seven students to appear on Nick Cannon's nationally syndicated talk show where they talked about the obstacles they faced to obtain their college degrees. Christian was an aspiring entertainer and hoped to follow in similar footsteps. Nick, who is an HBCU alum from Howard University, surprised them all by offering to eliminate the student's debts so that they did not have to worry about loan payments after graduation. This showed Nick's commitment to supporting HBCUs and their students across the country.

"I cannot thank you enough! You're an inspiration to many especially myself in media realm! This has been a life changing experience granting me the opportunity to continue my education and push forward to graduate college! THANK YOU!", said Christian on his own Instagram page.

Fast forward to today – Christian returned to his alma mater for a chance to be the presenter of the Humanitarian Award at the Bison's Choice Award Show during Springfest in Greensboro. The awardee? – Nick Cannon. Support to students like this goes a long way. Like ripples in a pond — you never know how far the ripples extend from just a simple drop.



## THE CLEVELAND BROWNS' MYLES GARRETT

### Donates to His Mother's School, Hampton University



**M**yles Garrett recently donated \$25,000 to his mother's alma mater, Hampton University. His mother, Audrey Garrett, was an All-American track athlete on scholarship at Hampton where she earned her degree. She now a doctoral candidate and is now a part of the Southern University Law Center which is a part of the esteemed HBCU, Southern University and A&M College.

In addition to donating the gift and being on campus, Gerrett and Brandon Martin, CEO of Johnson Energy Storage, participated in a panel discussion talking about the importance of STEM in the real world. "Continue to diversity and pursue things that authentic to yourself. Love what you do. Find what you are passionate about. Continue to be resilient and curious the rest of the days of your life." Garret said in an interview,

Garrett is the current defensive end for the Cleveland Browns and was drafted number one overall out of Texas A&M University in 2017 NFL draft. As a six-time pro bowler and 2023 NFL Defensive Player of the Year, he remains an advocate for HBCUs and their importance to the community.

# THE LIFETIME VALUE OF A SUMMER INTERNSHIP:

## What You Are Missing Out On



THE LIFETIME  
VALUE OF A SUMMER INTERNSHIP

**W**hether you are in high school, college, or a seasoned professional, an internship can help you improve your career, lead to more job offers, and higher starting salaries.

A recent 2024 study by LinkedIn has found that students with internship experience are 25% more likely to start a full-time position within 6 months of graduation than those with no internship experience. It seems that internships will help you stand out from competition and get a leg up and give you that competitive edge. It also provides you with the opportunity to connect with industry professionals and test your industry knowledge. You may find out at the end of the day that this may be what you want to do in life or maybe not and it's early enough to make a career direction (and major) change.

It will also help you with immeasurable skillsets such as team building, real world problem solving, conflict-resolution, written and verbal presentation, leadership, and communication skills. Getting that real-world experience is just so valuable to employers these days – bridging the gap between classroom work and real-world application. At the end of the day, you may come out with a job offer from the company that you have interned with. If not, you will have obtained a wealth of information and skills to help you stand out from others on the job interview trail.

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# A Historic First: OAKWOOD UNIVERSITY'S MADAM PRESIDENT



OAKWOOD UNIVERSITY'S MADAM PRESIDENT

For the first time in its 129-year history, and notably during Women's History Month, Oakwood University named a woman to its highest office. Dr. Gina Spivey Brown, an Oakwood alumna and nationally respected healthcare educator and administrator, will serve as the university's 12th president.

She most recently served as Dean of the College of Nursing and Allied Health Sciences at Howard University, where she led strategic planning, curriculum innovation, and multimillion-dollar grant acquisitions. Her résumé includes leadership roles at Washington Adventist University, Loma Linda University, and in healthcare systems management. She holds degrees from Oakwood University, Central Michigan University, and George Mason University, along with executive training from Harvard and a DEI certification from Cornell.

"Congratulations to Dr. Gina Spivey Brown on her historic appointment as the 12th President of Oakwood University! We have begun working closely together to fully and seamlessly transition to her new role on July 1, 2025. God has moved and we invite all to support both her and the institution to reach new heights in the coming years. To God be the glory!

- Dr. Leslie N. Pollard, President, Oakwood University



## The Benefits of Taking a **MINI-VACATION**

**T**aking a mini-vacation is not just an enchanting mini-adventure to feed your senses, they are powerful and magical spells for your health and well-being. A weekend trip benefits both mental and physical health. It can:

- 1. Reduces Stress** – Stress is part of our daily lives and stepping into a new routine and environment can help your mental well-being. Recharge your batteries and say hello to a new, happier you.
- 2. Sleep Improvement** – A weekend excursion could be the remedy for your tossing and turning at night. Without the pressures of everyday work, you may find yourself getting that much needed sleep.
- 3. Stronger Relationships** – Time with family or friends is the perfect time to spend quality time together and create lasting memories.
- 4. Get Creative** – Experiencing something new and different can stimulate your brain waves, inspire fresh ideas, and think more clearly.
- 5. Physical Health** – Outdoor activities help get your body moving. Enjoy the benefits of exercise with regular physical activity - a key to maintaining a healthy heart and overall well-being.

Short getaways are not just for a fun escape, it is a chance to get healthy mentally and physically. So now that you have the information, Pack your bags and check out this year's Memorial Day Getaway, May 22-27, 2025. For more information, go to <https://memorialdaygetaway.com/?aff=104>.

17th Annual



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**PUERTO PLATA**  
**DOMINICAN REPUBLIC**

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