

MEMORANDUM

TO: All Members of the House of Representatives

FROM: Representative Ronald G. Waters

SUBJECT: Request for Co-Sponsorship

DATE: June 27, 2012

In the near future, I intend to introduce a resolution recognizing the week of September 23 through 29, 2012 as "Historically Black Colleges and Universities Week in Pennsylvania." The Higher Education Act of 1965 defines a Historically Black College or University as, "any Historically Black College or University that was established prior to 1964, whose principal mission was, and is, the education of African Americans, and that is accredited by a nationally recognized accrediting agency or association."

There are 105 Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) comprised of public, private, two year and four year institutions, medical schools, and community colleges mainly located in the Southeastern United States, the District of Columbia, and the Virgin Islands. 52 HBCUs provide graduate degree programs, while 27 offer doctoral programs. According to The Network Journal, HBCUs are responsible for 22 percent of current bachelor's degrees granted to Blacks. Among Blacks, 40 percent of all congressmen, 12.5 percent of CEOs, 40 percent of engineers, 50 percent of professors at non-HBCUs, 50 percent of lawyers and 80 percent of judges are HBCU graduates.

The commonwealth is home to two of the 105 HBCUs, Lincoln and Cheyney Universities. Lincoln University is located in Southern Chester County offering undergraduate programs and graduate programs in human services, reading, education, mathematics, and administration. Cheyney University offers baccalaureate degrees in over 30 disciplines and a Master's Degree in Education. HBCUs create a solid educational foundation in the lives of their students preparing them to excel academically and thrive socially allowing them to create a rich legacy and strong support network of our nation's future leaders. If you would like to co-sponsor this resolution, please contact Nilda Jenkins at (717) 772-6955 or via e-mail at njenkins@pahouse.net.