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CHEYNEY UNIVERSITY of PENNSYLVANIA

Testimony of Charles Mitchell

Pennsylvania Education Committee & Legislative Black Caucus Joint Public Hearing on HBCU Financial Support/Resources

Good afternoon, Chair Schweyer (Majority Chair), Chair Topper (Minority Chair), Chair Nelson (PLBC Chair) and Members of the House Education Committee and PA Legislative Black Caucus. My name is Charles Mitchell, and I am a sophomore at Cheyney University below is my testimony.

1. **Campus Beautification:** - Enhancing the physical appearance of the campus can significantly impact the morale and pride of students, faculty, and visitors. - Investments in landscaping, outdoor seating areas, artwork installations, and maintenance can create a welcoming and aesthetically pleasing environment. - Beautification projects can also contribute to a positive first impression for prospective students and their families, potentially increasing enrollment and retention rates.

2. **Infrastructure Updates:** - Upgrading infrastructure such as buildings, classrooms, and dormitories is crucial for providing a safe, functional, and conducive learning environment. Renovations can address issues like outdated facilities and updating heating and cooling systems in traditional style dormitories. - Investing in sustainable infrastructure upgrades, such as energy-efficient lighting and water-saving fixtures, can also lead to long-term cost savings and environmental benefits.

3. **More Technology:** - Access to modern technology is essential for students to succeed in today's digital age. - Additional funding can support the purchase of updated computer labs, software licenses, and classroom technology such as interactive whiteboards and projectors. - Investments in high-speed internet infrastructure and Wi-Fi coverage can improve connectivity and support online learning initiatives which is essential for submitting work.

4. **Curbing Tuition Increase:** - Rising tuition costs can create financial barriers for students and their families, potentially limiting access to higher education. - Additional funding can help alleviate the need for tuition increases by providing alternative sources of revenue, such as grants, donations, and endowments. - Prioritizing cost-saving measures and efficient resource allocation can also help mitigate the need for tuition hikes while maintaining quality education allowing Cheyney to stay an affordable higher education option in the PASSHE system.

5. Campus Involvement/Activities: - Supporting a vibrant campus life is essential for fostering a sense of community, engagement, and personal growth among students. - Additional funding can expand extracurricular programs, clubs, and organizations, providing opportunities for students to pursue their interests and develop leadership skills. - Investing in campus events, cultural activities, and recreational facilities can enhance the overall college experience and promote student retention.

6. More Food Options for diverse eating restrictions: - Providing diverse and nutritious food options is essential for supporting the health and well-being of all students, including those with dietary restrictions or preferences. - Additional funding can be allocated towards expanding dining hall menus to accommodate various dietary needs, including vegetarian, vegan, gluten-free, and allergen-free options. - Investing in food service facilities and equipment can enhance the capacity to prepare fresh, made-to-order meals that meet specific dietary requirements. - We have pescatarian, vegan, vegetarian, keto, and Muslim students who do not indulge in pork. With more funding we can expand the options available to help ensure we can support students' religion and dietary needs.