

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

# HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 805 Session of 2012

INTRODUCED BY WATERS, V. BROWN, PARKER, GEORGE, CALTAGIRONE, JAMES, KORTZ, YOUNGBLOOD, FABRIZIO, BRENNAN, D. COSTA, DALEY, DENLINGER, FREEMAN, THOMAS, GODSHALL, GOODMAN, HESS, KIRKLAND, KULA, LONGIETTI, MAHONEY, MAJOR, MANN, MILLARD, MURT, O'NEILL, PAYTON, READSHAW, ROEBUCK, WILLIAMS, BRADFORD AND BISHOP, AUGUST 9, 2012

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35, AUGUST 9, 2012

## A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the week of September 23 through 29, 2012, as  
2 "Historically Black Colleges and Universities Week" in  
3 Pennsylvania.

4 WHEREAS, The Higher Education Act of 1965 defines a  
5 Historically Black College or University as, "any Historically  
6 Black College or University that was established prior to 1964,  
7 whose principal mission was, and is, the education of African  
8 Americans, and that is accredited by a nationally recognized  
9 accrediting agency or association"; and

10 WHEREAS, There are 105 Historically Black Colleges and  
11 Universities (HBCUs) comprised of public, private, two-year and  
12 four-year institutions, medical schools and community colleges  
13 mainly located in the southeastern United States, the District  
14 of Columbia and the Virgin Islands and 52 provide graduate  
15 degree programs, while 27 offer doctoral programs; and

16 WHEREAS, Between 1976 and 2001, total HBCU enrollment grew

1 from approximately 180,000 students to 214,000 students in 2011;  
2 and

3 WHEREAS, HBCUs are responsible for 16% of all African-  
4 American higher education students in the nation; and

5 WHEREAS, Among African Americans, 40% of all congressmen,  
6 12.5% of CEOs, 40% of engineers, 50% of professors at non-HBCUs,  
7 50% of lawyers and 80% of judges are HBCU graduates; and

8 WHEREAS, This Commonwealth is home to 2 of the 105 HBCUs,  
9 Lincoln and Cheyney Universities; and

10 WHEREAS, Lincoln University was chartered in April 1954 as  
11 Ashmun Institute; and

12 WHEREAS, The institute was renamed in 1866 after President  
13 Abraham Lincoln; and

14 WHEREAS, In 1972, the university formally associated with the  
15 Commonwealth as a State-related coeducational university; and

16 WHEREAS, Lincoln University currently enrolls approximately  
17 2,000 students and is located in southern Chester County  
18 offering undergraduate programs and graduate programs in human  
19 services, reading, education, mathematics and administration;  
20 and

21 WHEREAS, Cheyney University was founded in 1837 by Richard  
22 Humphrey; and

23 WHEREAS, Originally known as the "Institute for Colored  
24 Youth," Cheyney University joined the State System of Higher  
25 Education in 1983 and offers bachelor's degrees in more than 30  
26 disciplines and a master's degree in education; and

27 WHEREAS, Notable alumni of HBCUs include Dr. Martin Luther  
28 King, Jr., Langston Hughes, Thurgood Marshall, Ed Bradley, Oprah  
29 Winfrey, Marion Wright Edelman, James Clyburn, Susan Taylor and  
30 Booker T. Washington; and

1       WHEREAS, Students attending HBCUs are actively involved in  
2 their surrounding communities and they learn the value of  
3 community service, as it is often a graduation requirement to  
4 complete a specified number of community-service hours prior to  
5 graduation; and

6       WHEREAS, As a result of their desire to serve their  
7 communities in a greater capacity, students often join  
8 sororities and fraternities, some of which were founded on the  
9 campuses of HBCUs, such as Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.,  
10 founded in 1908; Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., founded in  
11 1911; Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., founded in 1913; Phi  
12 Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc., founded in 1914; Zeta Phi Beta  
13 Sorority, Inc., founded in 1920; and Iota Phi Theta Fraternity,  
14 Inc., established in 1963; and

15       WHEREAS, HBCUs create a solid educational foundation for  
16 their students by preparing them to excel academically and  
17 thrive socially and allowing students to create a strong network  
18 of our nation's future leaders; and

19       WHEREAS, "Historically Black Colleges and Universities Week"  
20 is being celebrated from September 23 through 29, 2012;  
21 therefore be it

22       RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize the  
23 week of September 23 through 29, 2012, as "Historically Black  
24 Colleges and Universities Week" in Pennsylvania.