
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 870 Session of
2020

INTRODUCED BY WILLIAMS, BIZZARRO, KORTZ, BURNS, McCLINTON,
FREEMAN, KIM, MURT, ULLMAN, HANBIDGE, HILL-EVANS, WHEATLEY,
ROTHMAN, DONATUCCI, A. DAVIS, MILLARD, SCHLOSSBERG, HOWARD,
KIRKLAND, GAINNEY, NEILSON, O'MARA, KINSEY, YOUNGBLOOD,
ROEBUCK, BULLOCK AND CONKLIN, MAY 13, 2020

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, MAY 13, 2020

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the week of September 20 through 26, 2020, as
2 "Historically Black Colleges and Universities Week" in
3 Pennsylvania.

4 WHEREAS, Historically, African-American individuals took
5 great risks and sacrificed much to establish a safe learning
6 environment to achieve significant advancements across the
7 United States; and

8 WHEREAS, Since the early 1800s, historically black colleges
9 and universities (HBCUs) were established to serve the
10 educational needs of African Americans; and

11 WHEREAS, HBCUs created supportive and empowering educational
12 environments for young people from diverse backgrounds; and

13 WHEREAS, Today, there are more than 100 HBCUs in the United
14 States, including public and private institutions and
15 professional schools of law and medicine; and

16 WHEREAS, At a time when many schools barred their doors to
17 African Americans, HBCUs offered the best, and often the only,

1 opportunity for a higher education; and

2 WHEREAS, HBCUs have continued to be a vital resource in the
3 nation's educational system and have made countless
4 accomplishments to the advancement of their students and the
5 nation at large; and

6 WHEREAS, For generations, spanning more than 180 years, HBCUs
7 have contributed to the growth of African-American individuals
8 in the areas of academia, technology, business, law and
9 government; and

10 WHEREAS, This Commonwealth is home to two HBCUs, Cheyney
11 University of Pennsylvania and Lincoln University; and

12 WHEREAS, Cheyney University of Pennsylvania, founded by
13 Richard Humphreys in 1837, is the oldest of the HBCUs in the
14 country; and

15 WHEREAS, Lincoln University was founded in 1854 by John
16 Miller Dickey and his wife, Sarah Emlen Cresson; and

17 WHEREAS, These institutions have a mission to uphold their
18 tradition of academic excellence as they strive to maintain
19 their commitment to provide an education for students of diverse
20 backgrounds; and

21 WHEREAS, "Historically Black Colleges and Universities Week"
22 is a source of accomplishment and great pride for the African-
23 American community as well as the entire nation; therefore be it

24 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize the
25 week of September 20 through 26, 2020, as "Historically Black
26 Colleges and Universities Week" in Pennsylvania.