

Office of the President

October 14, 2011

Dear Senator:

As you consider Fiscal Year 2012 (FY 2012) funding levels for the U.S. Department of Education, we urge you to reject the massive cuts to Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), Predominantly Black Institutions (PBIs), Hispanic Serving Institutions (HSIs), Tribal Colleges and Universities (TCUs) and other Minority-Serving Institutions (MSIs) as proposed in the funding bill drafted by the House Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations Subcommittee.

In total, the House proposal would eliminate 41 percent of all federal funding for MSIs under Titles III and V of the Higher Education Act. It would reduce discretionary funding by 83 percent for HSIs and 36 percent for HBCUs, and it would totally eliminate such funding for TCUs, PBIs and institutions serving Native Hawaiians, Alaskans and Pacific Islanders. Cuts of this magnitude would devastate the campuses that receive this funding and the students who depend on it.

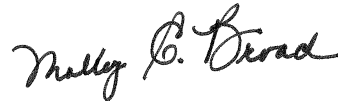
MSIs represent less than 20 percent of all postsecondary schools but they enroll 35 percent of African Americans, Hispanics and American Indians. They are cost-effective and efficient pathways that enable students from all walks of life—especially low-income, first generation students from chronically underserved communities—to enroll in higher education and to graduate, with benefits to themselves, their communities and the nation. MSIs educate disproportionate numbers of traditionally underrepresented minorities in STEM and other growth and high-need disciplines.

Drastic cuts in funding for these schools will unavoidably have a disastrous effect on minority students' college participation and completion at precisely the time the federal government is eager to increase the number and percentage of Americans with degrees.

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We urge you to maintain FY 2011 funding levels for these programs in any FY 2012 omnibus appropriations bill.

Sincerely,



Molly Corbett Broad
President

MCB/ldw

On behalf of:

ACPA-College Student Educators International
ACT, Inc.
American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education
American Association of Colleges of Nursing
American Association of Community Colleges
American Association of State Colleges and Universities
American Association of University Professors
American Council on Education
American Dental Education Association
American Indian Higher Education Consortium
American Society for Engineering Education
Association of Public and Land-grant Universities (APLU)
Association of American Colleges and Universities
Association of American Universities
Association of Governing Boards of Universities and Colleges
Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities
Association of Research Libraries
College and University Professional Association for Human Resources (CUPA-HR)
Council for Higher Education Accreditation
Council for Opportunity in Education
Council of Independent Colleges
Educational Testing Service
EDUCAUSE
Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities
NAFSA: Association of International Educators
NASPA-Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education
National Association for College Admission Counseling
National Association for Equal Opportunity in Higher Education

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National Association of College and University Business Officers

National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities

National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators

National Collegiate Athletic Association

Thurgood Marshall College Fund

UNCF

University Professional & Continuing Education Association