

2021 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 38

BY REPRESENTATIVE HUGHES

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To designate Monday, April 26, 2021, as HBCU Day at the state capitol.

WHEREAS, Louisiana is proud to be home to eight Historically Black Colleges and Universities, or HBCUs: Dillard University, Grambling State University, Southern University and A&M College, Southern University Agricultural Research and Extension Center, Southern Law Center, Southern University at New Orleans, Southern University at Shreveport, and Xavier University; and

WHEREAS, that fact, considered in tandem with the fact that Louisiana is home to the nation's only HBCU system, the Southern University System, uniquely positions the state as an exemplar of successful HBCU policy and practice; and

WHEREAS, in 2019-2020, Louisiana's HBCUs collectively enrolled 22,854 students; and

WHEREAS, since their establishment 184 years ago, HBCUs have provided Black students with a powerful avenue, and for some, the only available path, to a college degree; and

WHEREAS, as Louisiana grapples with both the global COVID-19 pandemic and historic national civil unrest, HBCUs have proven to be invaluable assets based on their history, student experiences, and societal contributions; and

WHEREAS, several HBCUs are contributing research to help fight the biological and sociopolitical impacts of the pandemic; and

WHEREAS, higher education universally provides wide-ranging benefits to students, including higher average lifetime wages, better career opportunities, increased job security and satisfaction, and better health, and exerts a considerable economic impact on communities, the state, and the region; and

WHEREAS, HBCUs enroll and successfully graduate greater numbers of low-income, first-generation, and academically underprepared college students compared to non-HBCUs; and

WHEREAS, evidence demonstrates that high levels of student-faculty engagement and mentorship at HBCUs lead to stronger student success; and

WHEREAS, HBCUs are credited with building the Black middle class in America, and Black graduates of HBCUs are significantly more likely to be better off financially and socially; and

WHEREAS, research has found that, on average, 58% of Black HBCU graduates strongly agree that professors at their university cared about them as individuals, as compared to 25% for Black non-HBCU graduates; and

WHEREAS, Black HBCU graduates are nearly twice as likely as Black graduates of non-HBCUs to strongly agree that their university prepared them well for life outside of college; and

WHEREAS, the pageantry, traditions, bands, and collegiate rivalries of HBCUs are second to none; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana's HBCUs have distinguished themselves nationally and in the state of Louisiana in numerous ways such as the following:

- (1) Dillard University is one of the nation's leading producers of Black physicists.
- (2) Grambling State University is the leading producer of computer science graduates in the state of Louisiana and the only institution to offer bachelor's degree programs in cybersecurity and cloud computing.
- (3) Southern University in Baton Rouge is a leading producer of Black engineers in Louisiana, and its graduates play significant roles at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, Boeing, International Business Machines, Entergy, and Dow Chemical, among other leading companies.
- (4) Southern University at New Orleans is the only HBCU to offer a forensic science program.
- (5) Southern University at Shreveport is the only two-year community college in north Louisiana with an aerospace technology program.

(6) Southern University Agricultural Research and Extension Center is the first HBCU to launch its own CBC and THC medical marijuana lines.

(7) Southern University Law Center counts among its alumni 104 attorneys who are currently serving as judges.

(8) Xavier University has been nationally recognized by the Association of American Medical Colleges for the number of Black graduates that go on to successfully complete medical school.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby designate Monday, April 26, 2021, as HBCU Day at the state capitol and does hereby express sincere gratitude to the Historically Black Colleges and Universities of Louisiana for their manifold contributions to the state and the nation.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE