



# HBCU

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PHILANTHROPY  
SYMPOSIUM

Presented by:



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# 2023 HBCU PHILANTHROPY SYMPOSIUM



Delaware State University (DSU) hosted the 13th Annual HBCU Philanthropy Symposium July 30 through August 2, 2023, at the Gaylord Resort and Convention Center in National Harbor, Maryland, attracting its largest group of attendees and sponsors since the conference began in 2012. More than 500 participants convened for this invaluable forum aimed at advancing sustainability and transformation within the Historically Black College and University (HBCU)/minority serving institution (MSI) arena through a fundraising lens. Attendees included presidents, deans, Institutional Advancement leaders and staff from 56 HBCUs and 6 MSIs, as well as corporate, foundation and governmental representatives.

Under the theme “Assessing Today: Planning for Tomorrow,” the symposium opened with a powerful keynote presentation by Dr. Harry L. Williams, President and CEO of Thurgood Marshall College Fund (TMCF), followed by highlights of the nation’s efforts to advance HBCUs from President Biden’s Board of Advisors on HBCUs Chair and DSU President Tony Allen, PhD and White House Initiative on HBCUs Executive Director Dietra Trent, PhD. General sessions featured panel discussions and presentations on how to leverage private foundation and corporate support to strengthen student success and public confidence, the implications of the recent U.S. Supreme Court ruling on Affirmative Action in higher education and diversity in the workforce, HBCU president perspectives, specific initiatives powered by corporate and private entities to support HBCUs, and the imperative for HBCUs and fundraising. Breakout sessions provided opportunities for fundraising professionals to share and discuss best practices in fundraising, alumni engagement, governance, and corporate collaborations, among other topics.

This year’s conference also featured two new initiatives. The Pete du Pont Freedom Foundation held an innovative solution competition during which attendees exchanged and pitched ideas focused on HBCU capacity building, sustainability, social justice initiatives, student engagement and retention, and alumni engagement. Attendees voted on the top ideas to move on to a series of workshops and consulting sessions to help those who generated the ideas to further build out their visions into strategic action plans over the next six months, with one winner ultimately receiving funding to help move their idea forward. The inaugural Dr. Alma S. Adams HBCU Leadership Award was also announced and presented to its namesake, U.S. Representative Alma S. Adams, in recognition of her legislative advocacy on behalf of HBCUs.

The 2023 HBCU Philanthropy Symposium was made possible through the generous support of its sponsors: Delmarva Power, The Kresge Foundation, Thrivent, United Airlines, Delaware State University Foundation, Diageo, Strada Education Foundation, Thurgood Marshall College Fund, YMCA of the USA, Bank of America, Pete du Pont Freedom Foundation, Sallie Mae, Capital One, Vanguard, Barber & Associates LLC, Barclays, BlueSky Collaborative Partners, Cisco Systems, TD Bank, and UNCF Philanthropy Institute.

# 2023 HBCU PHILANTHROPY SYMPOSIUM HIGHLIGHTS

## PARTICIPANT Breakdown

- 510 Individual Participants
- 56 HBCUs
- 6 Minority Serving & Other Higher Education Institutions
- 34 Corporations
- 21 Nonprofits & Associations
- 8 Private Foundations
- 8 Governmental Entities

## CONTENT Snapshot

- Empowering through Storytelling
- Building Talent Pipelines between HBCUs and Corporations
- Strengthening HBCU IT Infrastructure
- HBCU ROI Positioning and Execution
- Fostering Effective Foundation-Institution Partnerships

## CONTENT Packed into 2.5 Days

- 14 General Sessions
- 10 Breakout Sessions
- 6 Panel Discussions
- 3 Special Sessions
- 3 Networking Receptions
- 1 Pitch Competition

## ANNOUNCEMENTS on the Launches of:

- TMCf-DSU Joint Center for HBCU Non-Traditional Completion
- Pete du Pont Freedom Foundation HBCU Innovative Solutions Initiative
- Dr. Alma S. Adams HBCU Leadership Award

## Participant FEEDBACK

*"There was so much great information presented! Between the funding sources, the colleagues, and their energy, this was one of the best I've attended."*

*"The symposium was a beautiful experience that allowed me to gain insight into strategies to continue the work I'm doing in supporting HBCUs."*

*"We all came to share. We all came to collaborate. We all came to exchange!"*

*"The breakout sessions were very informative and individualized to specific areas."*

*"The authentic and strategic approach to the relevant topics, ensuring that key corporations were there explaining explicitly how to connect and partner."*



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## SAVE THE DATES FOR NEXT YEAR'S SYMPOSIUM:

## JUNE 30—JULY 3, 2024