

January 30, 2014
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

“Chairman of President Obama’s Board of Advisors on HBCU’S, Dr. William R. Harvey Ignites HBCU Alumni On First Ever HBCU Wide Town Hall Teleconference”

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HBCU Professional Network conducts landmark teleconference “The State of HBCU’s and how Alumni Can Better Assist in their Missions” featuring chairman of President Obama’s HBCU Initiatives and President of Hampton University Dr. William R. Harvey.

768 HBCU alumni from over 25 different institutions including Hampton, Shaw, St. Augustine, Howard, Talladega, Morehouse, Spellman, Winston Salem, Bowie State, Fayetteville State, Tuskegee, Southern, Alcorn State, Grambling, Clark, and many others respectively, called in to hear Dr. Harvey give insight and share his vast knowledge on the state of HBCUs and their futures. In a 50-minute call Hampton’s President of 36 years elucidated the callers on the current issues facing HBCU’s both positive and negative.

Some of the cogent points Dr. Harvey made were:

- HBCU alumni and their colleges need to do a better job at coming together to mentor current students. If an alumni learns something in the world that is not taught at the school it is their duty to come back and share to better prepare the students.
- Alumni giving is important because tuition alone only covers about 38 percent of the total cost for the students expenses. The University makes up the rest. We all stand on the shoulder of the ones that came before us; it is all our responsibility to give back financially.
- One of the reasons for poor giving is, some alumni may have had a bad experience at school and they hold that against the school forever. We need to get beyond that. The issue of supporting our HBCU is much bigger and more important than that.
- HBCUs should work together and share best practices. If it works for one it probably will work for more.
- He stated that the decrease in federal financial aid has hurt HBCUs the most. Predominantly White Schools have more financial resources, which make our alumni donations even more important

- Alumni need to support, defend and raise our alma maters. He stated that when we attend graduate school, we always list the predominantly White grad school first and never mention our undergraduate HBCU experience. We need to shout out that we attended a HBCU and be proud of it. He stated that he went to Harvard for graduate school but he would take Hampton students and put them up against Harvard students or any in the world. He stated the students that attend Hampton are some of the brightest minds in the world and they can match up with the best of the best. He stated that the alumni set the standard and are making a huge difference in society.

- He talked about the donor base and how critical it is that we all give something. He stated that when HBCUs go to these huge companies to raise money, the first thing the companies ask is what have the alumni donated? The companies use the HBCU's donor base in their decision process on awarding money.

- He commended The HBCU Professional Network for trying to pull all HBCU alumni together. There is strength in numbers. We can accomplish so much more when we come together. In summary he said our HBCUs NEED US. They cannot fight the fight alone. We all have a responsibility. We owe that to the ones that came before us and the ones that have come and will come after us. Join the HBCU Professional Network today by going to

www.hbcuprofessionalnetwork.com.

Many Campuses, One Family

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