**HBCU SCHOLAR STUDENT RECOGNITION DESCRIPTION**

*BACKGROUND*

The White House Initiative on Education Equity, Excellence and Economic Development through Historically Black Colleges and Universities (Initiative) is excited to announce their HBCU Scholar Recognition Program. This recognition is designed to identify current HBCU students for their dedication to academics, leadership, and civic engagement.

This is an opportunity for HBCU leadership to nominate an outstanding scholar on their campus. This is also an opportunity for current students to nominate themselves for this prestigious recognition. It should be noted that only complete applications will be reviewed by the Initiative team. HBCU Presidents/ Chancellors or HBCU faculty MUST sign and endorse student applications. The Initiative will select no more than 2 students from each HBCU.

*PROGRAM DETAILS*

Students will be recognized and acknowledge by the Initiative for one academic school year. During an academic school year selected member of the Initiative staff will reach out to recognized students to inform them of outreach and engagement opportunities that they can take advantage of or communicate to their fellow students. Students are encouraged to leverage the Initiative platform, network, and resources to promote their own agendas. Recognized students will also receive a formal invitation to attend the National Annual HBCU Week Conference where they will engage with Initiative staff, attend professional development sessions.

Through personal and professional relationships with community-based organizations, public and private sector entities, selected students will share promising and proven practices with key stakeholders that support opportunities for all young people. In addition, this opportunity will also allow students to participate in regional events, as well as web chats facilitated by Initiative staff and other professionals from a wide range of disciplines that support a spirit of engagement, entrepreneurship, personal and professional development.

**ELIGIBILITY AND RULES**

The nominated student must be a **current** undergraduate, graduate, or professional student at a Historically Black College or University (HBCU).

 [View HBCU Listing by State](https://sites.ed.gov/whhbcu/one-hundred-and-five-historically-black-colleges-and-universities/)

Together the students comprise the next generation of HBCU leaders who will booster educational excellence, innovation, and economic competitiveness. During their time at the National convening, recognized students are encouraged to carefully assess their own professional aspirations, as well as the needs of their institutions, to determine the many ways that our initiative might be able to support them and their campuses.

While attending the National Annual HBCU Week Conference and during the academic school year students must adhere to the following:

* Participating students must always conduct themselves with integrity and respect.
* Participating students should not directly participate or intervene in any political campaign while on duty.
* Participating students are encouraged should take advantage of the many opportunities that will be sent to them via WHIHBCU communications.
* Participating students should assess and articulate their own professional aspirations, as well as the needs of their institutions, to determine the many ways that our initiative might be able to support them, their fellow students, and institutions.

**STUDENT BENEFITS**

\*Public Recognition

* Student names and institutions will be mentioned in an official U.S. Department of Education and White House Press Release
* Student names, institution and hometowns will also be provided to the U.S. Departments, Office of Congressional and Legislative Affairs to inform U.S. and State Representatives.
* Formal Recognition Ceremony during HBCU Week Annual National Conference

\*Invitation to National Annual HBCU Week Annual National Conference

* Participating students will attend workshops designed to help them establish best practices as it pertains to, leadership, professional development. Entrepreneurship and workforce development.
* The Initiative staff, along with, public and private partners will plan activities that will take place on and off conference grounds

\*Recognition Letter/Token

* Recognized students will receive an acknowledgment letter signed by the Initiative Executive Director or small token identify them as a HBCU Scholar.

\*Invitation to Regional meetings

* Recognized students may be invited to Initiative hosted events/meetings in their region. This provides students with an opportunity to articulate their needs particulate needs and interested surrounding the events and serves as another opportunity to network with partners and stakeholders.