



January 7, 2025

Honorable Ron DeSantis
Governor of Florida
State Capitol
400 S. Monroe St.
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0001

Dear Governor DeSantis:

As Governor, you clearly understand that states must do all they can to build a strong workforce. Strong institutions of higher education support this goal through supporting research that fosters innovation that can lead to new discoveries and technologies that save lives, develop business, and sustain regions.

In our September 18, 2023 joint letter to your state, we brought attention to the unbalanced state appropriations, on a per student basis, between the 1862 land-grant university (1862) and the 1890 land-grant university (1890) in your state and shared our concern that the decades long underinvestment in the 1890 could disadvantage the students, faculty, and the community that the 1890 serves. This unbalanced funding also puts the institution in jeopardy during times of economic uncertainty since it does not retain the same level of endowment reserves that the 1862 has been able to develop. The public data from the Department of Education (ED) that informed the previous letter goes back approximately 30 years, long before any of us were in our current positions to make a positive difference by addressing unbalanced funding. Unfortunately, that's the furthest our records go back (please see the attached spreadsheet for detailed data and methodology).

We hope that we can be a thought partner with you as you consider ways to address the unbalanced funding. We thank the university leadership and faculty from your state's 1890 that, through the years, have been able to produce extraordinary graduates despite receiving less than its 1862 peers in matching state funds. The remarkable strides that have been made are a testament to their dedication to education and to the success of future generations.

Recognizing these efforts, our administration has [supported](#) Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) with Federal funding and investments totaling more than \$17 billion from fiscal years (FY) 2021 through FY 2024. Through financial aid, grants, and contracts we've been able to provide resources to these institutions that help contribute to the economic vitality of our nation.

In an effort to provide more information and answer questions, ED and the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) recently hosted a webinar for Governors, representatives from respective offices, and members and staff

of your legislature to discuss how the data that informed our initial letter was gathered, the methodology for calculating the unbalanced funding, and the share of USDA/NIFA funding provided to the 1890 in FY 2023. We also introduced attendees to USDA tools available including the [USDA/NIFA Grant Funding dashboard](#) which provides data on USDA/NIFA funding for competitive and capacity grants from FY 2018 forward. The creation of this tool was a high priority for USDA/NIFA in an effort to reduce barriers, and increase access to data on federally funded programs, including information on matching and waivers.

As you explore ways to address the funding imbalance, we strongly recommend establishing a state-level bipartisan joint legislative committee to gather data and conduct historical budget analysis of how the state has allocated funds to ensure it has provided its share of required matching funds for 1862 and 1890 universities related to federal grant programs. For example, in 2021, Tennessee's Office of Legislative Budget Analysis produced a report on underfunding related to the NIFA one-to-one match.

In developing the goals of that committee, we recommend that the committee address two contributing factors to funding inequities:

- (1) the state appropriations per student as calculated by ED; and**
- (2) the NIFA one-to-one match.**

We are committed to working with you to make sure all institutions receive the support and resources that will allow them to develop students who are prepared to contribute to the economic and social fabric of our nation. The investments we make today, will be the foundation for institutions to increase their ability to conduct groundbreaking research that is a hallmark of American ingenuity, attract high-quality faculty members, and provide students with the tools to help lead our country into a future that is increasingly being shaped by advances in artificial intelligence/machine learning, semiconductor manufacturing, and small business growth and workforce development.

Sincerely,



Miguel A. Cardona, Ed.D.
U.S. Secretary of Education



Thomas J. Vilsack
U.S. Secretary of Agriculture



January 7, 2025

Honorable Brian Kemp
Governor of Georgia
203 State Capitol
Atlanta, GA 30334

Dear Governor Kemp:

As Governor, you clearly understand that states must do all they can to build a strong workforce. Strong institutions of higher education support this goal through supporting research that fosters innovation that can lead to new discoveries and technologies that save lives, develop business, and sustain regions.

In our September 18, 2023 joint letter to your state, we brought attention to the unbalanced state appropriations, on a per student basis, between the 1862 land-grant university (1862) and the 1890 land-grant university (1890) in your state and shared our concern that the decades long underinvestment in the 1890 could disadvantage the students, faculty, and the community that the 1890 serves. This unbalanced funding also puts the institution in jeopardy during times of economic uncertainty since it does not retain the same level of endowment reserves that the 1862 has been able to develop. The public data from the Department of Education (ED) that informed the previous letter goes back approximately 30 years, long before any of us were in our current positions to make a positive difference by addressing unbalanced funding. Unfortunately, that's the furthest our records go back (please see the attached spreadsheet for detailed data and methodology).

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Miguel A. Cardona, Ed.D.
U.S. Secretary of Education



Thomas J. Vilsack
U.S. Secretary of Agriculture



January 7, 2025

Honorable Andy Beshear
Governor of Kentucky
State Capitol
700 Capitol Ave., Suite 100
Frankfort, KY 40601

Dear Governor Beshear:

As Governor, you clearly understand that states must do all they can to build a strong workforce. Strong institutions of higher education support this goal through supporting research that fosters innovation that can lead to new discoveries and technologies that save lives, develop business, and sustain regions.

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Miguel A. Cardona, Ed.D.
U.S. Secretary of Education



Thomas J. Vilsack
U.S. Secretary of Agriculture



January 7, 2025

Honorable Jeff Landry
Governor of Louisiana
P.O. Box 94004
Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9004

Dear Governor Landry:

As Governor, you clearly understand that states must do all they can to build a strong workforce. Strong institutions of higher education support this goal through supporting research that fosters innovation that can lead to new discoveries and technologies that save lives, develop business, and sustain regions.

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Sincerely,



Miguel A. Cardona, Ed.D.
U.S. Secretary of Education



Thomas J. Vilsack
U.S. Secretary of Agriculture



January 7, 2025

Honorable Tate Reeves
Governor of Mississippi
P.O. Box 139
Jackson, MS 39205

Dear Governor Reeves:

As Governor, you clearly understand that states must do all they can to build a strong workforce. Strong institutions of higher education support this goal through supporting research that fosters innovation that can lead to new discoveries and technologies that save lives, develop business, and sustain regions.

In our September 18, 2023 joint letter to your state, we brought attention to the unbalanced state appropriations, on a per student basis, between the 1862 land-grant university (1862) and the 1890 land-grant university (1890) in your state and shared our concern that the decades long underinvestment in the 1890 could disadvantage the students, faculty, and the community that the 1890 serves. This unbalanced funding also puts the institution in jeopardy during times of economic uncertainty since it does not retain the same level of endowment reserves that the 1862 has been able to develop. The public data from the Department of Education (ED) that informed the previous letter goes back approximately 30 years, long before any of us were in our current positions to make a positive difference by addressing unbalanced funding. Unfortunately, that's the furthest our records go back (please see the attached spreadsheet for detailed data and methodology).

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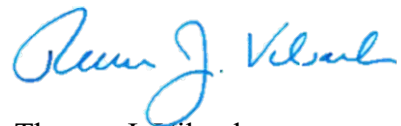
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Sincerely,



Miguel A. Cardona, Ed.D.
U.S. Secretary of Education



Thomas J. Vilsack
U.S. Secretary of Agriculture



January 7, 2025

Honorable Mike Kehoe
Governor of Missouri
P.O. Box 720
Jefferson City, MO 65102

Dear Governor Kehoe:

As Governor, you clearly understand that states must do all they can to build a strong workforce. Strong institutions of higher education support this goal through supporting research that fosters innovation that can lead to new discoveries and technologies that save lives, develop business, and sustain regions.

In our September 18, 2023 joint letter to your state, we brought attention to the unbalanced state appropriations, on a per student basis, between the 1862 land-grant university (1862) and the 1890 land-grant university (1890) in your state and shared our concern that the decades long underinvestment in the 1890 could disadvantage the students, faculty, and the community that the 1890 serves. This unbalanced funding also puts the institution in jeopardy during times of economic uncertainty since it does not retain the same level of endowment reserves that the 1862 has been able to develop. The public data from the Department of Education (ED) that informed the previous letter goes back approximately 30 years, long before any of us were in our current positions to make a positive difference by addressing unbalanced funding. Unfortunately, that's the furthest our records go back (please see the attached spreadsheet for detailed data and methodology).

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Sincerely,



Miguel A. Cardona, Ed.D.
U.S. Secretary of Education



Thomas J. Vilsack
U.S. Secretary of Agriculture



January 7, 2025

Honorable Josh Stein
Governor of North Carolina
20301 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-0301

Dear Governor Stein:

As Governor, you clearly understand that states must do all they can to build a strong workforce. Strong institutions of higher education support this goal through supporting research that fosters innovation that can lead to new discoveries and technologies that save lives, develop business, and sustain regions.

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Miguel A. Cardona, Ed.D.
U.S. Secretary of Education



Thomas J. Vilsack
U.S. Secretary of Agriculture



January 7, 2025

Honorable Mike DeWine
Governor of Ohio
Riffe Center, 30th Floor
77 S. High Street
Columbus, OH 43215-6117

Dear Governor DeWine:

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Miguel A. Cardona, Ed.D.
U.S. Secretary of Education



Thomas J. Vilsack
U.S. Secretary of Agriculture



January 7, 2025

Honorable Kevin Stitt
Governor of Oklahoma
State Capitol
2300 N. Lincoln Blvd., Room 212
Oklahoma City, OK 73105

Dear Governor Stitt:

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Recognizing these efforts, our administration has [supported](#) Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) with Federal funding and investments totaling more than \$17 billion from fiscal years (FY) 2021 through FY 2024. Through financial aid, grants, and contracts we've been able to provide resources to these institutions that help contribute to the economic vitality of our nation.

In an effort to provide more information and answer questions, ED and the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) recently hosted a webinar for Governors, representatives from respective offices, and members and staff

of your legislature to discuss how the data that informed our initial letter was gathered, the methodology for calculating the unbalanced funding, and the share of USDA/NIFA funding provided to the 1890 in FY 2023. We also introduced attendees to USDA tools available including the [USDA/NIFA Grant Funding dashboard](#) which provides data on USDA/NIFA funding for competitive and capacity grants from FY 2018 forward. The creation of this tool was a high priority for USDA/NIFA in an effort to reduce barriers, and increase access to data on federally funded programs, including information on matching and waivers.

As you explore ways to address the funding imbalance, we strongly recommend establishing a state-level bipartisan joint legislative committee to gather data and conduct historical budget analysis of how the state has allocated funds to ensure it has provided its share of required matching funds for 1862 and 1890 universities related to federal grant programs. For example, in 2021, Tennessee's Office of Legislative Budget Analysis produced a report on underfunding related to the NIFA one-to-one match.

In developing the goals of that committee, we recommend that the committee address two contributing factors to funding inequities:

- (1) the state appropriations per student as calculated by ED; and**
- (2) the NIFA one-to-one match.**

We are committed to working with you to make sure all institutions receive the support and resources that will allow them to develop students who are prepared to contribute to the economic and social fabric of our nation. The investments we make today, will be the foundation for institutions to increase their ability to conduct groundbreaking research that is a hallmark of American ingenuity, attract high-quality faculty members, and provide students with the tools to help lead our country into a future that is increasingly being shaped by advances in artificial intelligence/machine learning, semiconductor manufacturing, and small business growth and workforce development.

Sincerely,



Miguel A. Cardona, Ed.D.
U.S. Secretary of Education



Thomas J. Vilsack
U.S. Secretary of Agriculture



January 7, 2025

Honorable Henry McMaster
Governor of South Carolina
1100 Gervais Street
Columbia, SC 29201

Dear Governor McMaster:

As Governor, you clearly understand that states must do all they can to build a strong workforce. Strong institutions of higher education support this goal through supporting research that fosters innovation that can lead to new discoveries and technologies that save lives, develop business, and sustain regions.

In our September 18, 2023 joint letter to your state, we brought attention to the unbalanced state appropriations, on a per student basis, between the 1862 land-grant university (1862) and the 1890 land-grant university (1890) in your state and shared our concern that the decades long underinvestment in the 1890 could disadvantage the students, faculty, and the community that the 1890 serves. This unbalanced funding also puts the institution in jeopardy during times of economic uncertainty since it does not retain the same level of endowment reserves that the 1862 has been able to develop. The public data from the Department of Education (ED) that informed the previous letter goes back approximately 30 years, long before any of us were in our current positions to make a positive difference by addressing unbalanced funding. Unfortunately, that's the furthest our records go back (please see the attached spreadsheet for detailed data and methodology).

We hope that we can be a thought partner with you as you consider ways to address the unbalanced funding. We thank the university leadership and faculty from your state's 1890 that, through the years, have been able to produce extraordinary graduates despite receiving less than its 1862 peers in matching state funds. The remarkable strides that have been made are a testament to their dedication to education and to the success of future generations.

Recognizing these efforts, our administration has [supported](#) Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) with Federal funding and investments totaling more than \$17 billion from fiscal years (FY) 2021 through FY 2024. Through financial aid, grants, and contracts we've been able to provide resources to these institutions that help contribute to the economic vitality of our nation.

In an effort to provide more information and answer questions, ED and the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) recently hosted a webinar for Governors, representatives from respective offices, and members and staff of your legislature to discuss how the data that informed our initial letter was gathered, the

methodology for calculating the unbalanced funding, and the share of USDA/NIFA funding provided to the 1890 in FY 2023. We also introduced attendees to USDA tools available including the [USDA/NIFA Grant Funding dashboard](#) which provides data on USDA/NIFA funding for competitive and capacity grants from FY 2018 forward. The creation of this tool was a high priority for USDA/NIFA in an effort to reduce barriers, and increase access to data on federally funded programs, including information on matching and waivers.

As you explore ways to address the funding imbalance, we strongly recommend establishing a state-level bipartisan joint legislative committee to gather data and conduct historical budget analysis of how the state has allocated funds to ensure it has provided its share of required matching funds for 1862 and 1890 universities related to federal grant programs. For example, in 2021, Tennessee's Office of Legislative Budget Analysis produced a report on underfunding related to the NIFA one-to-one match.

In developing the goals of that committee, we recommend that the committee address two contributing factors to funding inequities:

- (1) the state appropriations per student as calculated by ED; and**
- (2) the NIFA one-to-one match.**

We are committed to working with you to make sure all institutions receive the support and resources that will allow them to develop students who are prepared to contribute to the economic and social fabric of our nation. The investments we make today, will be the foundation for institutions to increase their ability to conduct groundbreaking research that is a hallmark of American ingenuity, attract high-quality faculty members, and provide students with the tools to help lead our country into a future that is increasingly being shaped by advances in artificial intelligence/machine learning, semiconductor manufacturing, and small business growth and workforce development.

Sincerely,



Miguel A. Cardona, Ed.D.
U.S. Secretary of Education



Thomas J. Vilsack
U.S. Secretary of Agriculture



January 7, 2025

Honorable Bill Lee
Governor of Tennessee
State Capitol, 1st Floor
600 Charlotte Avenue
Nashville, TN 37243

Dear Governor Lee:

As Governor, you clearly understand that states must do all they can to build a strong workforce. Strong institutions of higher education support this goal through supporting research that fosters innovation that can lead to new discoveries and technologies that save lives, develop business, and sustain regions.

In our September 18, 2023 joint letter to your state, we brought attention to the unbalanced state appropriations, on a per student basis, between the 1862 land-grant university (1862) and the 1890 land-grant university (1890) in your state and shared our concern that the decades long underinvestment in the 1890 could disadvantage the students, faculty, and the community that the 1890 serves. This unbalanced funding also puts the institution in jeopardy during times of economic uncertainty since it does not retain the same level of endowment reserves that the 1862 has been able to develop. The public data from the Department of Education (ED) that informed the previous letter goes back approximately 30 years, long before any of us were in our current positions to make a positive difference by addressing unbalanced funding. Unfortunately, that's the furthest our records go back (please see the attached spreadsheet for detailed data and methodology).

We hope that we can be a thought partner with you as you consider ways to address the unbalanced funding. We thank the university leadership and faculty from your state's 1890 that, through the years, have been able to produce extraordinary graduates despite receiving less than its 1862 peers in matching state funds. The remarkable strides that have been made are a testament to their dedication to education and to the success of future generations.

Recognizing these efforts, our administration has [supported](#) Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) with Federal funding and investments totaling more than \$17 billion from fiscal years (FY) 2021 through FY 2024. Through financial aid, grants, and contracts we've been able to provide resources to these institutions that help contribute to the economic vitality of our nation.

In an effort to provide more information and answer questions, ED and the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) recently hosted a webinar for Governors, representatives from respective offices, and members and staff

of your legislature to discuss how the data that informed our initial letter was gathered, the methodology for calculating the unbalanced funding, and the share of USDA/NIFA funding provided to the 1890 in FY 2023. We also introduced attendees to USDA tools available including the [USDA/NIFA Grant Funding dashboard](#) which provides data on USDA/NIFA funding for competitive and capacity grants from FY 2018 forward. The creation of this tool was a high priority for USDA/NIFA in an effort to reduce barriers, and increase access to data on federally funded programs, including information on matching and waivers.

As you explore ways to address the funding imbalance, we strongly recommend establishing a state-level bipartisan joint legislative committee to gather data and conduct historical budget analysis of how the state has allocated funds to ensure it has provided its share of required matching funds for 1862 and 1890 universities related to federal grant programs. For example, in 2021, Tennessee's Office of Legislative Budget Analysis produced a report on underfunding related to the NIFA one-to-one match.

In developing the goals of that committee, we recommend that the committee address two contributing factors to funding inequities:

- (1) the state appropriations per student as calculated by ED; and**
- (2) the NIFA one-to-one match.**

We are committed to working with you to make sure all institutions receive the support and resources that will allow them to develop students who are prepared to contribute to the economic and social fabric of our nation. The investments we make today, will be the foundation for institutions to increase their ability to conduct groundbreaking research that is a hallmark of American ingenuity, attract high-quality faculty members, and provide students with the tools to help lead our country into a future that is increasingly being shaped by advances in artificial intelligence/machine learning, semiconductor manufacturing, and small business growth and workforce development.

Sincerely,



Miguel A. Cardona, Ed.D.
U.S. Secretary of Education



Thomas J. Vilsack
U.S. Secretary of Agriculture



January 7, 2025

Honorable Greg Abbott
Governor of Texas
Post Office Box 12428
Austin, TX 78711

Dear Governor Abbott:

As Governor, you clearly understand that states must do all they can to build a strong workforce. Strong institutions of higher education support this goal through supporting research that fosters innovation that can lead to new discoveries and technologies that save lives, develop business, and sustain regions.

In our September 18, 2023 joint letter to your state, we brought attention to the unbalanced state appropriations, on a per student basis, between the 1862 land-grant university (1862) and the 1890 land-grant university (1890) in your state and shared our concern that the decades long underinvestment in the 1890 could disadvantage the students, faculty, and the community that the 1890 serves. This unbalanced funding also puts the institution in jeopardy during times of economic uncertainty since it does not retain the same level of endowment reserves that the 1862 has been able to develop. The public data from the Department of Education (ED) that informed the previous letter goes back approximately 30 years, long before any of us were in our current positions to make a positive difference by addressing unbalanced funding. Unfortunately, that's the furthest our records go back (please see the attached spreadsheet for detailed data and methodology).

We hope that we can be a thought partner with you as you consider ways to address the unbalanced funding. We thank the university leadership and faculty from your state's 1890 that, through the years, have been able to produce extraordinary graduates despite receiving less than its 1862 peers in matching state funds. The remarkable strides that have been made are a testament to their dedication to education and to the success of future generations.

Recognizing these efforts, our administration has [supported](#) Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) with Federal funding and investments totaling more than \$17 billion from fiscal years (FY) 2021 through FY 2024. Through financial aid, grants, and contracts we've been able to provide resources to these institutions that help contribute to the economic vitality of our nation.

In an effort to provide more information and answer questions, ED and the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) recently hosted a webinar for Governors, representatives from respective offices, and members and staff of your legislature to discuss how the data that informed our initial letter was gathered, the

methodology for calculating the unbalanced funding, and the share of USDA/NIFA funding provided to the 1890 in FY 2023. We also introduced attendees to USDA tools available including the [USDA/NIFA Grant Funding dashboard](#) which provides data on USDA/NIFA funding for competitive and capacity grants from FY 2018 forward. The creation of this tool was a high priority for USDA/NIFA in an effort to reduce barriers, and increase access to data on federally funded programs, including information on matching and waivers.

As you explore ways to address the funding imbalance, we strongly recommend establishing a state-level bipartisan joint legislative committee to gather data and conduct historical budget analysis of how the state has allocated funds to ensure it has provided its share of required matching funds for 1862 and 1890 universities related to federal grant programs. For example, in 2021, Tennessee's Office of Legislative Budget Analysis produced a report on underfunding related to the NIFA one-to-one match.

In developing the goals of that committee, we recommend that the committee address two contributing factors to funding inequities:

- (1) the state appropriations per student as calculated by ED; and**
- (2) the NIFA one-to-one match.**

We are committed to working with you to make sure all institutions receive the support and resources that will allow them to develop students who are prepared to contribute to the economic and social fabric of our nation. The investments we make today, will be the foundation for institutions to increase their ability to conduct groundbreaking research that is a hallmark of American ingenuity, attract high-quality faculty members, and provide students with the tools to help lead our country into a future that is increasingly being shaped by advances in artificial intelligence/machine learning, semiconductor manufacturing, and small business growth and workforce development.

Sincerely,



Miguel A. Cardona, Ed.D.
U.S. Secretary of Education



Thomas J. Vilsack
U.S. Secretary of Agriculture



January 7, 2025

Honorable Glenn Youngkin
Governor of Virginia
P.O. Box 1475
Richmond, VA 23218

Dear Governor Youngkin:

As Governor, you clearly understand that states must do all they can to build a strong workforce. Strong institutions of higher education support this goal through supporting research that fosters innovation that can lead to new discoveries and technologies that save lives, develop business, and sustain regions.

In our September 18, 2023 joint letter to your state, we brought attention to the unbalanced state appropriations, on a per student basis, between the 1862 land-grant university (1862) and the 1890 land-grant university (1890) in your state and shared our concern that the decades long underinvestment in the 1890 could disadvantage the students, faculty, and the community that the 1890 serves. This unbalanced funding also puts the institution in jeopardy during times of economic uncertainty since it does not retain the same level of endowment reserves that the 1862 has been able to develop. The public data from the Department of Education (ED) that informed the previous letter goes back approximately 30 years, long before any of us were in our current positions to make a positive difference by addressing unbalanced funding. Unfortunately, that's the furthest our records go back (please see the attached spreadsheet for detailed data and methodology).

We hope that we can be a thought partner with you as you consider ways to address the unbalanced funding. We thank the university leadership and faculty from your state's 1890 that, through the years, have been able to produce extraordinary graduates despite receiving less than its 1862 peers in matching state funds. The remarkable strides that have been made are a testament to their dedication to education and to the success of future generations.

Recognizing these efforts, our administration has [supported](#) Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) with Federal funding and investments totaling more than \$17 billion from fiscal years (FY) 2021 through FY 2024. Through financial aid, grants, and contracts we've been able to provide resources to these institutions that help contribute to the economic vitality of our nation.

In an effort to provide more information and answer questions, ED and the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) recently hosted a webinar for Governors, representatives from respective offices, and members and staff of your legislature to discuss how the data that informed our initial letter was gathered, the

methodology for calculating the unbalanced funding, and the share of USDA/NIFA funding provided to the 1890 in FY 2023. We also introduced attendees to USDA tools available including the [USDA/NIFA Grant Funding dashboard](#) which provides data on USDA/NIFA funding for competitive and capacity grants from FY 2018 forward. The creation of this tool was a high priority for USDA/NIFA in an effort to reduce barriers, and increase access to data on federally funded programs, including information on matching and waivers.

As you explore ways to address the funding imbalance, we strongly recommend establishing a state-level bipartisan joint legislative committee to gather data and conduct historical budget analysis of how the state has allocated funds to ensure it has provided its share of required matching funds for 1862 and 1890 universities related to federal grant programs. For example, in 2021, Tennessee's Office of Legislative Budget Analysis produced a report on underfunding related to the NIFA one-to-one match.

In developing the goals of that committee, we recommend that the committee address two contributing factors to funding inequities:

- (1) the state appropriations per student as calculated by ED; and**
- (2) the NIFA one-to-one match.**

We are committed to working with you to make sure all institutions receive the support and resources that will allow them to develop students who are prepared to contribute to the economic and social fabric of our nation. The investments we make today, will be the foundation for institutions to increase their ability to conduct groundbreaking research that is a hallmark of American ingenuity, attract high-quality faculty members, and provide students with the tools to help lead our country into a future that is increasingly being shaped by advances in artificial intelligence/machine learning, semiconductor manufacturing, and small business growth and workforce development.

Sincerely,



Miguel A. Cardona, Ed.D.
U.S. Secretary of Education



Thomas J. Vilsack
U.S. Secretary of Agriculture



January 7, 2025

Honorable Matt Meyer
Governor of Delaware
Tatnall Building, 2nd Floor
Dover, DE 19901

Dear Governor Meyer:

As Governor, you clearly understand that states must do all they can to build a strong workforce. Strong institutions of higher education support this goal through supporting research that fosters innovation that can lead to new discoveries and technologies that save lives, develop business, and sustain regions.

As the Secretaries of Agriculture and Education we issued a joint letter on September 18, 2023, to your peers in 16 states raising their awareness about unbalanced state appropriations, on a per student basis, between the 1862 land-grant university (1862) and the 1890 land-grant university (1890) in your state and shared our concern that the decades long underinvestment in the 1890 could disadvantage the students, faculty, and the community that the 1890 serves. This unbalanced funding also puts the institution in jeopardy during times of economic uncertainty since it does not retain the same level of endowment reserves that the 1862 has been able to develop. The public data from the Department of Education that informed the previous letter goes back approximately 30 years, long before any of us were in our current positions to make a positive difference by addressing unbalanced funding. Unfortunately, that's the furthest our records go back (please see the attached spreadsheet for detailed data and methodology).

Our data shows that from 1987 to 2020, your state provided equitable funding to the 1890 land-grant university in your state. The leadership and faculty of this Historically Black Colleges and University (HBCU) have been able to produce extraordinary graduates with these resources. The remarkable strides that have been made are a testament to their dedication to education and the success of future generations.

Recognizing these efforts, our administration has [supported](#) HBCUs with Federal funding and investments totaling more than \$17 billion from fiscal years (FY) 2021 through FY 2024. Through financial aid, grants, and contracts we've been able to provide resources to these institutions that help contribute to the economic vitality of our nation.

We applaud and recognize the efforts that your state has taken to ensure that we are able to compete at a high level and develop the strong workforce that will propel this country into the future, generate the next wave of entrepreneurs, and fuel our economy, by working to provide high-quality educational opportunities to all students.

In an effort to provide more information and answer questions, the Department of Education (ED) and the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) recently hosted a webinar for Governors, representatives from respective offices, and members and staff of your legislature to discuss how the data that informed our initial letter was gathered, the methodology for calculating the unbalanced funding, and the share of USDA/NIFA funding provided to the 1890s in FY 2023. We also introduced attendees to USDA tools available including the [USDA/NIFA Grant Funding dashboard](#) which provides data on USDA/NIFA funding for competitive and capacity grants from FY 2018 forward. The creation of this tool was a high priority for USDA/NIFA in an effort to reduce barriers, and increase access to data on federally funded programs, including information on matching and waivers.

As was noted, the data that we have only covers a 30-year period. Due to this limited dataset when compared to how long land-grant universities have been in existence, we strongly recommend establishing a state-level bipartisan joint legislative committee to gather data and conduct historical budget analysis of how the state has allocated funds to ensure it has provided its share of required matching funds for 1862 and 1890 universities related to federal grant programs. For example, in 2021, Tennessee's Office of Legislative Budget Analysis produced a report on underfunding related to the NIFA one-to-one match.

In developing the goals of that committee, we recommend that the committee address two contributing factors to funding inequities:

- (1) the state appropriations per student as calculated by ED; and**
- (2) the NIFA one-to-one match.**

We are committed to working with you to make sure all institutions receive the support and resources that will allow them to continue developing students who are prepared to contribute to the economic and social fabric of our nation. The investments we make today will be the foundation for institutions to increase their ability to conduct groundbreaking research that is a hallmark of American ingenuity, attract high quality faculty members, and provide students with the tools to help lead our country into a future that is increasingly being shaped by advances in artificial intelligence/machine learning, semiconductor manufacturing, and small business growth and workforce readiness.

Sincerely,



Miguel A. Cardona, Ed.D.
U.S. Secretary of Education



Thomas J. Vilsack
U.S. Secretary of Agriculture



January 7, 2025

Honorable Kay Ivey
Governor of Alabama
State Capitol
600 Dexter Avenue
Montgomery, AL 36130-2751

Dear Governor Ivey:

As Governor, you clearly understand that states must do all they can to build a strong workforce. Strong institutions of higher education support this goal through supporting research that fosters innovation that can lead to new discoveries and technologies that save lives, develop business, and sustain regions.

In our September 18, 2023 joint letter to your state, we brought attention to the unbalanced state appropriations, on a per student basis, between the 1862 land-grant university (1862) and the 1890 land-grant university (1890) in your state and shared our concern that the decades long underinvestment in the 1890 could disadvantage the students, faculty, and the community that the 1890 serves. This unbalanced funding also puts the institution in jeopardy during times of economic uncertainty since it does not retain the same level of endowment reserves that the 1862 has been able to develop. The public data from the Department of Education (ED) that informed the previous letter goes back approximately 30 years, long before any of us were in our current positions to make a positive difference by addressing unbalanced funding. Unfortunately, that's the furthest our records go back (please see the attached spreadsheet for detailed data and methodology).

We hope that we can be a thought partner with you as you consider ways to address the unbalanced funding. We thank the university leadership and faculty from your state's 1890 that, through the years, have been able to produce extraordinary graduates despite receiving less than its 1862 peers in matching state funds. The remarkable strides that have been made are a testament to their dedication to education and to the success of future generations.

Recognizing these efforts, our administration has [supported](#) Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) with Federal funding and investments totaling more than \$17 billion from fiscal years (FY) 2021 through FY 2024. Through financial aid, grants, and contracts we've been able to provide resources to these institutions that help contribute to the economic vitality of our nation.

In an effort to provide more information and answer questions, ED and the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) recently hosted a webinar for Governors, representatives from respective offices, and members and staff

of your legislature to discuss how the data that informed our initial letter was gathered, the methodology for calculating the unbalanced funding, and the share of USDA/NIFA funding provided to the 1890 in FY 2023. We also introduced attendees to USDA tools available including the [USDA/NIFA Grant Funding dashboard](#) which provides data on USDA/NIFA funding for competitive and capacity grants from FY 2018 forward. The creation of this tool was a high priority for USDA/NIFA in an effort to reduce barriers, and increase access to data on federally funded programs, including information on matching and waivers.

As you explore ways to address the funding imbalance, we strongly recommend establishing a state-level bipartisan joint legislative committee to gather data and conduct historical budget analysis of how the state has allocated funds to ensure it has provided its share of required matching funds for 1862 and 1890 universities related to federal grant programs. For example, in 2021, Tennessee's Office of Legislative Budget Analysis produced a report on underfunding related to the NIFA one-to-one match.

In developing the goals of that committee, we recommend that the committee address two contributing factors to funding inequities:

- (1) the state appropriations per student as calculated by ED; and**
- (2) the NIFA one-to-one match.**

As your state examines its historical data, we encourage including Tuskegee University in your study. While our initial data set only includes public HBCUs, Tuskegee's designation as a private institution and a review of its historic funding as a land-grant university should be taken into account and given thoughtful consideration.

We are committed to working with you to make sure all institutions receive the support and resources that will allow them to develop students who are prepared to contribute to the economic and social fabric of our nation. The investments we make today, will be the foundation for institutions to increase their ability to conduct groundbreaking research that is a hallmark of American ingenuity, attract high-quality faculty members, and provide students with the tools to help lead our country into a future that is increasingly being shaped by advances in artificial intelligence/machine learning, semiconductor manufacturing, and small business growth and workforce development.

Sincerely,



Miguel A. Cardona, Ed.D.
U.S. Secretary of Education



Thomas J. Vilsack
U.S. Secretary of Agriculture



January 7, 2025

Honorable Sarah Huckabee Sanders
Governor of Arkansas
State Capitol, Room 250
Little Rock, AR 72201

Dear Governor Sanders:

As Governor, you clearly understand that states must do all they can to build a strong workforce. Strong institutions of higher education support this goal through supporting research that fosters innovation that can lead to new discoveries and technologies that save lives, develop business, and sustain regions.

In our September 18, 2023 joint letter to your state, we brought attention to the unbalanced state appropriations, on a per student basis, between the 1862 land-grant university (1862) and the 1890 land-grant university (1890) in your state and shared our concern that the decades long underinvestment in the 1890 could disadvantage the students, faculty, and the community that the 1890 serves. This unbalanced funding also puts the institution in jeopardy during times of economic uncertainty since it does not retain the same level of endowment reserves that the 1862 has been able to develop. The public data from the Department of Education (ED) that informed the previous letter goes back approximately 30 years, long before any of us were in our current positions to make a positive difference by addressing unbalanced funding. Unfortunately, that's the furthest our records go back (please see the attached spreadsheet for detailed data and methodology).

We hope that we can be a thought partner with you as you consider ways to address the unbalanced funding. We thank the university leadership and faculty from your state's 1890 that, through the years, have been able to produce extraordinary graduates despite receiving less than its 1862 peers in matching state funds. The remarkable strides that have been made are a testament to their dedication to education and to the success of future generations.

Recognizing these efforts, our administration has [supported](#) Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) with Federal funding and investments totaling more than \$17 billion from fiscal years (FY) 2021 through FY 2024. Through financial aid, grants, and contracts we've been able to provide resources to these institutions that help contribute to the economic vitality of our nation.

We'd also like to commend your administration on investing \$5.8 million in funding for the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff, an increase over your last budget. This investment will benefit the students, the research that will take place on campus, and the state.]

In an effort to provide more information and answer questions, ED and the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) recently hosted a webinar for Governors, representatives from respective offices, and members and staff of your legislature to discuss how the data that informed our initial letter was gathered, the methodology for calculating the unbalanced funding, and the share of USDA/NIFA funding provided to the 1890 in FY 2023. We also introduced attendees to USDA tools available including the [USDA/NIFA Grant Funding dashboard](#) which provides data on USDA/NIFA funding for competitive and capacity grants from FY 2018 forward. The creation of this tool was a high priority for USDA/NIFA in an effort to reduce barriers, and increase access to data on federally funded programs, including information on matching and waivers.

As you explore ways to address the funding imbalance, we strongly recommend establishing a state-level bipartisan joint legislative committee to gather data and conduct historical budget analysis of how the state has allocated funds to ensure it has provided its share of required matching funds for 1862 and 1890 universities related to federal grant programs. For example, in 2021, Tennessee's Office of Legislative Budget Analysis produced a report on underfunding related to the NIFA one-to-one match.

In developing the goals of that committee, we recommend that the committee address two contributing factors to funding inequities:

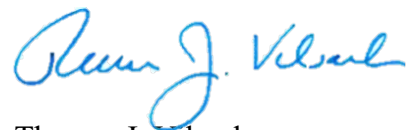
- (1) the state appropriations per student as calculated by ED; and**
- (2) the NIFA one-to-one match.**

We are committed to working with you to make sure all institutions receive the support and resources that will allow them to develop students who are prepared to contribute to the economic and social fabric of our nation. The investments we make today, will be the foundation for institutions to increase their ability to conduct groundbreaking research that is a hallmark of American ingenuity, attract high-quality faculty members, and provide students with the tools to help lead our country into a future that is increasingly being shaped by advances in artificial intelligence/machine learning, semiconductor manufacturing, and small business growth and workforce development.

Sincerely,



Miguel A. Cardona, Ed.D.
U.S. Secretary of Education



Thomas J. Vilsack
U.S. Secretary of Agriculture



January 7, 2025

Honorable Wes Moore
Governor of Maryland
100 State Circle
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Governor Moore:

As Governor, you clearly understand that states must do all they can to build a strong workforce. Strong institutions of higher education support this goal through supporting research that fosters innovation that can lead to new discoveries and technologies that save lives, develop business, and sustain regions.

In our September 18, 2023 joint letter to your state, we brought attention to the unbalanced state appropriations, on a per student basis, between the 1862 land-grant university (1862) and the 1890 land-grant university (1890) in your state and shared our concern that the decades long underinvestment in the 1890 could disadvantage the students, faculty, and the community that the 1890 serves. This unbalanced funding also puts the institution in jeopardy during times of economic uncertainty since it does not retain the same level of endowment reserves that the 1862 has been able to develop. The public data from the Department of Education (ED) that informed the previous letter goes back approximately 30 years, long before any of us were in our current positions to make a positive difference by addressing unbalanced funding. Unfortunately, that's the furthest our records go back (please see the attached spreadsheet for detailed data and methodology).

We hope that we can be a thought partner with you as you consider ways to address the unbalanced funding. We thank the university leadership and faculty from your state's 1890 that, through the years, have been able to produce extraordinary graduates despite receiving less than its 1862 peers in matching state funds. The remarkable strides that have been made are a testament to their dedication to education and to the success of future generations.

Recognizing these efforts, our administration has [supported](#) Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) with Federal funding and investments totaling more than \$17 billion from fiscal years (FY) 2021 through FY 2024. Through financial aid, grants, and contracts we've been able to provide resources to these institutions that help contribute to the economic vitality of our nation.

We'd also like to commend your administration on the recent announcement to double the University of Maryland Eastern Shore state to federal land-grant match to \$4.8 million. This investment will benefit the students, the research that will take place on campus, and the state.

In an effort to provide more information and answer questions, ED and the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) recently hosted a webinar for Governors, representatives from respective offices, and members and staff of your legislature to discuss how the data that informed our initial letter was gathered, the methodology for calculating the unbalanced funding, and the share of USDA/NIFA funding provided to the 1890 in FY 2023. We also introduced attendees to USDA tools available including the [USDA/NIFA Grant Funding dashboard](#) which provides data on USDA/NIFA funding for competitive and capacity grants from FY 2018 forward. The creation of this tool was a high priority for USDA/NIFA in an effort to reduce barriers, and increase access to data on federally funded programs, including information on matching and waivers.

As you explore ways to address the funding imbalance, we strongly recommend establishing a state-level bipartisan joint legislative committee to gather data and conduct historical budget analysis of how the state has allocated funds to ensure it has provided its share of required matching funds for 1862 and 1890 universities related to federal grant programs. For example, in 2021, Tennessee's Office of Legislative Budget Analysis produced a report on underfunding related to the NIFA one-to-one match.

In developing the goals of that committee, we recommend that the committee address two contributing factors to funding inequities:

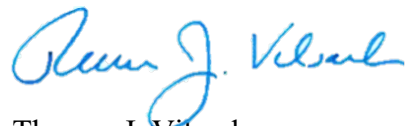
- (1) the state appropriations per student as calculated by ED; and**
- (2) the NIFA one-to-one match.**

We are committed to working with you to make sure all institutions receive the support and resources that will allow them to develop students who are prepared to contribute to the economic and social fabric of our nation. The investments we make today, will be the foundation for institutions to increase their ability to conduct groundbreaking research that is a hallmark of American ingenuity, attract high-quality faculty members, and provide students with the tools to help lead our country into a future that is increasingly being shaped by advances in artificial intelligence/machine learning, semiconductor manufacturing, and small business growth and workforce development.

Sincerely,



Miguel A. Cardona, Ed.D.
U.S. Secretary of Education



Thomas J. Vilsack
U.S. Secretary of Agriculture



January 7, 2025

Honorable Patrick Morrisey
Governor of West Virginia
State Capitol
Charleston, WV 25305

Dear Governor Morrisey:

As Governor, you clearly understand that states must do all they can to build a strong workforce. Strong institutions of higher education support this goal through supporting research that fosters innovation that can lead to new discoveries and technologies that save lives, develop business, and sustain regions.

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We'd also like to commend your administration on the recent announcement to invest \$50 million to construct a state-of-the-art agricultural lab at West Virginia State University. This investment will be a tremendous benefit to both the university and the state. In an effort to

provide more information and answer questions, ED and the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) recently hosted a webinar for Governors, representatives from respective offices, and members and staff of your legislature to discuss how the data that informed our initial letter was gathered, the methodology for calculating the unbalanced funding, and the share of USDA/NIFA funding provided to the 1890 in FY 2023. We also introduced attendees to USDA tools available including the [USDA/NIFA Grant Funding dashboard](#) which provides data on USDA/NIFA funding for competitive and capacity grants from FY 2018 forward. The creation of this tool was a high priority for USDA/NIFA in an effort to reduce barriers, and increase access to data on federally funded programs, including information on matching and waivers.

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Sincerely,



Miguel A. Cardona, Ed.D.
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