

GUEST EDITOR'S NOTE

Guest Editor Note – Part II

In 1837, Cheyney University of Pennsylvania became the first historically Black college or university (HBCU) in the nation. Today, there are approximately 105 accredited HBCUs in the nation. The vast majority of HBCUs can be founded in the southeastern region of the United States as well as some northern states, such as Missouri, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Delaware.

Giving voice to the importance of student persistence and faculty motivation, *Coming Full Circle* offers the personal testimony of five Black professors from Florida A&M University. Wiltsher, Kinsey, Hunter, Davis, and Shakir emphasize the need for students to see their identity reflected by the people who educate them in order to foster nurturing learning environments for students of color.

The article *Research: The New Frontier of all HBCUs* posits that it is time for HBCU's to become as synonymous with research as they have with step shows and homecoming. Utilizing exploratory analysis of 101 institutions, Lynch, Towns, Allen highlight that all HBCU's can expand their research and development endeavors. This article makes the case that HBCU campuses are prime environments for scholastic investigations.

Smith, Isreal, Ford and McDonald provide an in-depth discussion on using appreciative advising to combat student retention challenges at HBCUs in the article *I Too Dream*. The use of appreciative advising

brings forth the ability to have intentional and collaborative conversations with students that yield a greater overall sense of belonging and success.

I encourage the readers of this special issue to embrace the importance and relevance of HBCUs based on the various topics presented. Furthermore, it is my hope that this issue encourages researchers and scholar-practitioners to research and write about the work done at HBCUs to give voice to their student success practices in higher education.

I would like to thank all authors who contributed to this special HBCU issue. Additionally, I appreciate the insightful assistance of my graduate editorial assistant Rehshetta Wells. Lastly, I would like to also thank Dr. Ryan Gildersleeve., current editor-in-chief, for the opportunity to serve as the guest editor for this special issue on HBCUs for the ACPA About Campus Journal.

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