

March 3, 2017

Dear Bronco Community,

On February 27, I, along with other chancellors and presidents of the nation's Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), attended a meeting at the White House with the President and Vice-President of the United States. The purpose of his meeting was to discuss issues of importance to our institutions.

Among the items addressed was funding for HBCUs, particularly Title III, Pell Grants, and federal research grants for faculty. The encouraging news was that the President and Vice-President said they understood that our institutions had been historically underfunded and that they would address this issue. The chancellors and presidents stressed the value of our institutions and the respective roles they play in providing access and a quality education for the populations we serve. Our message was simple to the Administration and to the Republican Leadership: While we are very happy to be brought to the table, we need to see concrete actions that show your support of HBCUs, namely a significant allocation in the federal budget. It is our belief, based on this meeting and from mentions in White House Briefings, that they understand our stance and are in agreement that HBCUs matter. Despite the acknowledgement of the importance of providing long-overdue support for HBCU's by President Trump and other senior officials, we are not sure of what the next steps will be. Heretofore, the Thurgood Marshall College Fund and the United Negro College Fund have been in negotiation with the White House since they represent most of the HBCU's. The presidents and chancellors must take a more active role in any future discussions.

In the meantime, we will continue in our efforts to provide our students the best educational experiences possible. Much work has gone into enhancing the academic reputation of Fayetteville State University and making our institution a 21st Century world-class university of choice. We will not waiver from our mission nor betray our legacy.

I will keep you informed of any other ongoing conversations as they unfold.

In the Bronco Spirit,

James A. Anderson

Chancellor