



WHITE HOUSE INITIATIVE ON HISTORICALLY BLACK COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

August 12, 2014

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

D. Jason DeSousa  
Assistant Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs  
Director of the Male Initiatives  
Fayetteville State University

Dear Dr. DeSousa:

The White House Initiative on Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), with the support of the U.S. Department of Education, will convene its 2014 National HBCU Week Conference at the Washington Marriott Wardman Park hotel, on September 22-23, 2014. This year's theme is "Historically Black Colleges and Universities: Innovators for Future Success."

As you may know, the conference brings together Presidents, Members of the President's cabinet, Title III Directors, federal agency representatives, foundations, HBCU advocacy groups and other interested stakeholders to discuss issues important to HBCUs. On behalf of the White House Initiative on HBCUs, I am inviting you to participate as a panelist for a session scheduled on September 22, 2014 at 1:00pm. The session is outlined below.

**September 22, 2014**  
**1:00 p.m. –2:15 p.m.**  
**Salon 2&3**

**HBCUs are My Brother's Keeper.** HBCUs have the potential to play a major role in expanding college access to school-age Black males. However, HBCUs need coordinated and proactive strategies to disrupt a system that underprepares Black males for postsecondary education and restricts their higher education options to the least competitive institutions of higher education. In February 2014, President Obama launched My Brother's Keeper – a new initiative to help every boy and young man of color break barriers and get ahead. The initiative surveys and builds on the work of communities and institutions that are adopting approaches to promote success among males of color. This session draws from the experiences of successful Black male initiatives at HBCUs to explore how HBCUs can contribute to the national agenda to help Black males to reach their full potential, contribute to their communities and build successful lives for themselves and their families.

It would be greatly appreciated if you would accept/decline this invitation by Monday, August 25, 2014.

If you have any questions/concerns, please feel free to contact me at your convenience on (202) 205-4836 (office) or (202) 617-1442 (cell).

Thank you very much for considering my request.

With appreciation and warm regards,

George E. Cooper  
Executive Director