



June 16, 2021

The Honorable Alma Adams
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable French Hill
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Chris Coons
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Tim Scott
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Representative Adams, Representative Hill, Senator Coons, and Senator Scott:

We write in strong support of the recently-introduced Institutional Grants for New Infrastructure, Technology, and Education for HBCU Excellence Act, also known as the IGNITE HBCU Excellence Act. According to research from the United Negro College Fund, Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) contribute nearly \$15 billion to their communities on an annual basis, produce 134,000 jobs, and create \$46.8 billion in alumni career earnings that can be directly attributed to their degrees.

While HBCUs have been incredibly successful, they have also been significantly underfunded for decades and the IGNITE HBCU Excellence Act aims to boost investments to renovate, modernize, and construct new campus facilities, including instructional, research, and residential spaces. These investments are vital to attracting and retaining students and sustaining these institutions in the long term.

We believe that diversity is an essential driver of innovation and creativity. The valuable partnerships we have had with HBCUs over the years have contributed to building the innovative

workforce we desire, and our country needs, to compete globally. We look forward to continuing and expanding on our partnerships with these institutions.

As Congress works to address the infrastructure needs of the country, we hope that the infrastructure investments provided for in the IGNITE HBCU Excellence Act will be included in the legislative efforts.

We appreciate your long-standing work to invest in HBCUs and we look forward to working with you to advance the IGNITE HBCU Excellence Act.

Sincerely,

Adobe Inc.

Autodesk, Inc.

Dell Technologies

Hewlett Packard Enterprise

HP Inc.

IBM Corporation

Information Technology Industry Council

MasterCard Inc.

Nielsen

Oracle Corporation

Siemens USA

SoftBank Group

Visa Inc.

cc: House Speaker Nancy Pelosi
Majority Leader Charles Schumer
Republican Leader Kevin McCarthy
Republican Leader Mitch McConnell
U.S. Senator Patty Murray
U.S. Senator Richard Burr
U.S. Rep. Bobby Scott
U.S. Rep. Virginia Foxx