

HBCUs: Where Education Meets Culture



DC Postsecondary Success Collaborative

Best Practices in Postsecondary Success

February 25, 2025

Welcome!

Drop in the chat:

- **Name**
- **Company/Organization**
- **Role**

Welcome!



Nicole Savage

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Resource Padlet



**Knowledge Network
Resource Hub**

<https://bit.ly/KNPadletPractices>

Agenda

1 Welcome and Overview

2 HBCU Trends

3 Student Panel

4 Advising Guidance

5 Closing

Knowledge Networks

Knowledge Networks (KNs) are smaller professional learning communities within the Collaborative that meet bi-monthly, with the goal of fostering deeper community-building while creating the opportunity for professional development around common topics and problems of practice.

Best Practices in Postsecondary Success

“Train-the-trainer” style skill-building professional learning sessions, with knowledge- and resource-sharing opportunities from within and outside of our network of experts.

Past Sessions:

- 10/29/24: Career-Focused Postsecondary Pathways
- 12/10/24: Strengthening Educator Industry Partnerships

Upcoming:

- 2/25/25: HBCUs: Where Education Meets Culture (TODAY)
- 5/13/25: [TBA]

HBCUs: Where Education Meets Culture

By the end of this session educators and partners will:

- Reflect on recent trends in HBCU admissions.
- Hear from current HBCU students to better understand their perspective on attending a HBCU and necessary supports.
- Share advising best practices and resources to support students interested in HBCUs.

HBCUs: Where Education Meets Culture

Did identity development and/or affinity play a role in your college decision?

HBCU Trends

- **Increase in Applications**
- **Increased Enrollment**
- **Selectivity Increased**
- **Federal and State Funding**
- **Limited Financial Aid**

Readings (also in the [Padlet](#)):

- [A look at historically Black colleges and universities in the U.S.](#)
- [The Numbers Don't Lie: HBCUs Are Changing the College Landscape](#)
- [A Silver Lining for HBCUs in Affirmative Action's Demise](#)
- [Soaring Application Numbers Suggest Historically Black Colleges Are Still in Vogue](#)
- [Where did D.C.'s former students attend postsecondary in the fall of 2020?](#)

Student Panel

Kalynn Tobin

Aleya McBride

Andrew Ratcliff



Student Panel

What inspired you to attend an HBCU, and what factors influenced your decision-making process?

How did the cost of attendance factor into your decision to attend your HBCU? Did you fully understand the cost when you made the decision?

What do you think would help more DC students attend HBCUs, and how can advisors/counselors/programs better support them?

What resources or advising helped you decide on and enroll in college? Who provided them to you?

Student Panel

Does this resonate with your own college experience?

What resonates with your experience working with students?

What are your thoughts considering potential changes to federal education?

Advising Considerations



Sekenia Welch
Dunbar High School

Advising Considerations

Graduation Rate

The 6 year graduation rate of students attending the college.

Admissibility

Your students likelihood of being admitted based on their academic profile.

Affordability

A student and families ability to pay after all financial aid (scholarships and grants) is offered.

Advising Considerations

Start Early

- Educate on HBCUs
- Advise to build a strong profile
- Build healthy list of options

Plan

- Common App, Common Black College Application, Direct
- College application vs. College Scholarship applications
- Check email frequently for opportunities

Strategy

- Building a strong profile (academics, extra currics)
- SAT optional for admittance but *not* for scholarships
- Outside scholarships (DCCAP, Greek/Affinity Orgs)

On Campus

- Find support to maintain grades
- Get involved
- Seek opportunities on campus

Be Mindful

- Don't project experience when guiding student
- Letting go is difficult, summer support

Feedback

3-Question Zoom Poll Exit Survey

Next Steps: Knowledge Network

1

Continue to add resources, needs, and opportunities related to postsecondary advising best practices to our shared resource hub: The [Padlet](#)!

2

Save the date for our next and last Knowledge Network session:
Tuesday, May 13, 2025, 3:30-4:45 pm

Next Steps: The Collaborative

1

Save the Date: 2025 DC Postsecondary Success Summit on **Friday, March 21st** at Trinity Washington University! Join the ticket waitlist, check out Summit themes, and more: dcpostsecondarysuccess.org/2025-summit



Check out our [website](#) for info, resources, & more!

2

Call for Summit Volunteers: we need more hands for the Summit! Our biggest areas of need are day-of volunteers. Join the planning team by signing up here: dcpostsecondarysuccess.org/2025-summit-support

3

Have upcoming opportunities or announcements for the community? We'll add it to our monthly newsletter: dcpostsecondarysuccess.org/submit-to-newsletter

Thanks for Joining Us!
Until Next Time!