



TIPS FOR A SUCCESSFUL ALUMNI MEETING WITH MEMBERS OF CONGRESS

BEFORE THE MEETING

- *Know with whom you are meeting.* Review the bio of the Member of Congress and/or the staff you are scheduled to meet and know about the work of the office and programs you want to discuss.
- *Know your materials.* Be familiar with the advocacy, briefing materials and correspondence you are taking with you to the meeting
- *Prepare a short agenda of items.* Be prepared to discuss a short agenda of items and realize you will have a limited set amount of time to hit the important points.
- *Connect your issue to the office you are visiting.* Be prepared to explain how your issue or policy position is relevant to Member's constituents.

DURING THE MEETING

(You generally only have between 10 and 15 minutes. Arrive early. Listen carefully. Be respectful even when you disagree.)

1. SAY THANK YOU.
 - a. Thank the Member or staffer in advance for their time and support.
2. TELL YOUR STORY.
 - a. Prepare a brief introductory overview of your school and its achievements, why you chose to attend, how you paid for college and what you are presently doing.
 - b. Discuss your repayment status (if applicable) and your experience with the loan servicer and the status of your repayment plan.
 - c. Discuss the opportunities that added to the quality of your education experience at your alma mater.
 - d. Be concise and articulate in your delivery.

- e. End the discussion with two clear points.
3. SHARE INFORMATION.
 - a. Leave behind written materials about your school (demographics, funding levels, signature programs) and/or the program from which you graduated.
 - b. Leave behind the contact information for the school's government relations liaison.
 4. EXTEND AN INVITATION.
 - a. Invite the Member of Congress and his/her staff to visit the school.
 - i. Make the government relations liaison the point of contact for the visit.
 - ii. Recommend a special event/activity that would benefit from their participation or attendance.

AFTER YOUR MEETING

- Review your notes on issues and questions raised.
- Follow-up with a personal note.

HBCU ADVOCACY TALKING POINTS

1. Maintain the current funding levels for the Pell grant program and utilize the Pell budget surplus to restore summer Pell. Access to year-round Pell grants will increase the likelihood of students completing college on time and in a shorter amount of time therefore decreasing the overall cost of their education.
2. Support the Strengthening HBCUs Undergraduate Program (Title III Part B) by increasing funds, allowing more flexibility for using the funds and strengthening accountability measures.
3. Continue investment in STEM Education Programs across the federal government to address national security issues and strengthen the minority pipeline.
4. Fund critical initiatives to ensure equality of educational opportunity in minority graduate education.
5. Support work study funds as a form of student aid with a special focus on students with the highest need.
6. Support funding for pilot programs and existing and new programs

within federal agencies for paid internships for HBCU students.

7. Support K-12 pipeline initiatives that are proven methods to improve the transition to college.
8. Support financial investment in infrastructure improvements at HBCU campuses, including but not limited to repair and renovation of existing facilities (which states aren't funding), new facilities (especially research labs), compliance costs related to ADA and safety, and technology upgrades.