

Mr. Speaker, I am proud of the opportunities this fine institution has provided for so many people and the contributions it has made to the Dallas community. I know my colleagues will join me in saluting Paul Quinn College and all historically black colleges and universities this week.

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of the 29,300 students that graduate from Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) each year. I come to this floor as a proud 1968 graduate of Tougaloo College and a 1972 graduate of Jackson State University. I am also proud to say that, located in my congressional district is the nation's oldest historically Black land-grant institution—Alcorn State University.

In the year 2000, we find that nearly 40% of Black undergraduates at HBCUs are first-generation college students. While we applaud the services that these institutions provide, we must also show support for HBCUs by increasing funding for them, developing programs to make federal dollars more accessible and encouraging private investments. In my home state of Mississippi, public HBCUs have been faced with the challenge of achieving funding levels equal to those of traditionally White institutions. For 25 years, Mississippi Valley State University, Jackson State and Alcorn have been engaged in a legal battle for equal funding. This fact emphasizes the need for increased public and private support. In spite of the circumstances, we find that HBCUs are continuing to fulfill their missions as institutions of higher learning and the first outlet for Blacks who desire to attend college.

Yes, Mr. Speaker, HBCUs have stood the test of time. Today, more than 25% of Blacks earning bachelors degrees received them from HBCUs. As President Clinton has designated this week as Nationally Historic Black Colleges and Universities Week, let us commit to improve upon the past successes of schools like Tougaloo College, Rust College, Alcorn State University and Jackson State University.

I thank Representatives HOYER, CUMMINGS, LEWIS and WYNN for their leadership on bringing this issue to the floor. God bless our HBCUs and their supporters.

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, as a proud graduate of a Historically Black College, I am more than happy to be a part of the National Historical Black College and University week here in Washington. Today, over half of all African American professionals are HBCU graduates, as is 42% of the Congressional Black Caucus.

Historically Black Colleges and Universities were created back in 1837 to provide African Americans access to higher education. Because of the terrible history of racism in many parts of our country, the goal of these schools, although straight forward, has not been easy: to educate young black Americans and empower them to play a role in the affairs of our country. Since African Americans have been denied educational opportunities until very recently, these schools have really been the only avenue open to blacks to further themselves through education.

Today, a majority of African American college students graduate from HBCU's. 28% receive their bachelor's degrees from these schools, and 15% obtain their Master's de-

grees from these schools. Since their creation, HBCU's have graduated more than 70% of the degrees granted to African Americans.

In my state of Florida, we are blessed with four HBCU's, two of which are located in my district. In Tallahassee, we have Florida's largest Black College, my alma mater, Florida A&M, which has nearly 10,000 students. In South Florida, we have Florida Memorial College, and my district, Florida's third, is lucky to have both Edward Waters College in Jacksonville, and Bethune Cookman College, which was founded by a determined young black woman, Mary Mcleod Bethune, in 1904 in Daytona.

Among the many exciting things happening in Florida's black colleges is the acquisition of a law school at Florida A&M, which is set to open in 2003. The opening of the school will officially mark the return of the FAMU College of Law since its closing in 1968. I remember when I was a student at Florida A&M, when the FAMU College of Law, which had provided the only avenue in the state of Florida for African Americans to undertake a career in the influential field of law, was stolen from us and merged with the law school at Florida State. This was a time when African Americans were not allowed to study at Florida state schools at the graduate level, consequently, African Americans were excluded from the field. Not surprisingly today, although that law has been repealed, there are very few African American attorneys in Florida. With the reinstatement of FAMU's law school, minority students will once again have greater access to be represented in the legal profession.

In closing, I am, and always will be, a strong supporter of HBCU's, and will continue to work hard to allow these schools to continue on with their valuable mission, the educational advancement of young African Americans.

Mr. SISISKY. Mr. Speaker, thank you for this opportunity to speak on behalf of the positive influences that Virginia State University and Saint Paul's College, two Historically Black Colleges and Universities in my district, have had on Virginia in particular, and African American culture in general.

Virginia State University, located in Ettrick, Virginia, is America's first fully state supported four-year institution of higher learning for African-Americans. In its first academic year, 1883-84, the University had 126 students and seven faculty; one building, 33 acres, a 200-book library, and a \$20,000 budget.

Tuition was \$3.35 and room and board was \$20.00.

From these modest beginnings, Virginia State University now offers 27 undergraduate degree programs and 13 graduate degree programs.

The University, which is fully integrated, has a student body of 4,300, a full-time teaching faculty of approximately 170, a library containing 277,350 volumes, a 236-acre campus and a 416-acre farm, more than 50 buildings (including 15 dormitories and 16 classroom buildings), and an annual budget of \$64,238,921.

I am pleased to have been on the Board of Visitors of Virginia State University.

When I was a delegate in the Virginia General Assembly, I sponsored the legislation which changed Virginia State College to Virginia State University.

Saint Paul's College, founded in 1888 in Lawrenceville, Virginia, is a small liberal arts college in which the attributes of integrity, objectivity, resourcefulness, scholarship, and responsible citizenship are emphasized. Over 15 undergraduate degrees are offered.

Its liberal arts, career-oriented, and teacher-education programs prepare graduates for effective participation in various aspects of human endeavor.

Intentionally small, its 600 students represent a wide variety of areas in the United States and several countries. However, the active campus life is characterized by a strong sense of camaraderie.

Education has always been very important to the people of Virginia. Whatever part of the Commonwealth you hail from, there is a place for our children to go for advanced learning.

Both Virginia State University and Saint Paul's College rank with the best colleges and universities in the country for preparing our young people to enhance this world.

As a Historically Black Colleges and Universities, the opportunities offered by these schools have been very important to the development of Virginia, and will continue to be for the future of this nation.

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, Lincoln University, in Jefferson City, Missouri, is an historic black college that has served Missouri and our nation well since the latter part of the 1800s. Today, it serves as a beacon of education for our state of Missouri. I am so very proud of the faculty, the students, and its extension service, which have put this university on the map. I am pleased to represent such an outstanding institution.

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO OFFER MOTION TO INSTRUCT CONFEREES ON H.R. 4577, DEPARTMENT OF LABOR, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, AND EDUCATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2001

Mr. GOODLING. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 7(c) of rule XXII, I hereby notify the House of my intention tomorrow to offer the following motion to instruct House conferees on H.R. 4577, a bill making appropriations for fiscal year 2001 for the Department of Labor, Health and Human Services and Education.

I move that the managers on the part of the House at the conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the bill, H.R. 4577, be instructed to increase Title VI Education Block Grant funding with instructions that these increased funds may also be used for the purposes of addressing the shortage of highly qualified teachers, to reduce class size, particularly in early grades; using highly qualified teachers to improve educational achievement for regular and special needs children, to support efforts to recruit, train and retrain highly qualified teachers, or for school construction and renovation of facilities at the sole discretion of the local educational agency.