

HBCU PROPELLING AGENCY RELATIONSHIPS TOWARDS A NEW ERA OF RESULTS FOR STUDENTS ACT (HBCU PARTNERS ACT)

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FEMA's Implementation of the HBCU PARTNERS Act:

Proposal: The PARTNERS Act directs Federal agencies to: to provide students enrolled at HBCUs with the highest quality educational and economic opportunities; to bolster and facilitate productive interactions between historically Black colleges and university (HBCUs) and Federal agencies; and to encourage HBCU participation in and benefit from Federal programs, grants, contracts, and cooperative agreements. In support of the PARTNERSACT, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) will partner with I-DIEM to develop a program to engage to support ongoing emergency management and resilience efforts by 1) Developing an Strengthening HBCUs Agency plan with through ongoing consultation, guidance, and collaboration with HBCUs and emergency management professional organizations; 2) supporting efforts to establish Emergency Management and Homeland Security academic programs at HBCUs to help develop and train existing and emerging emergency management and homeland security professionals 2) identifying opportunities to conduct research, assist with ongoing EM projects, especially related to risk and vulnerability reduction in under-deserved communities; 3) enhance preparedness and build capacity at HBCUs which to protect these historic landmarks which are vulnerable natural hazards 4) identify opportunities for HBCUs to support implementation of the Disaster Recovery Reform Act (DDRA) which will provide significant pre-disaster mitigation funding to help make our communities and infrastructure better prepared and more resilient to the impacts of natural disasters and other catastrophic events.

Findings:

- Only 10 HBCUs offer educational programs in EM and HS
- The major of HBCUs are located in FEMA Regions IV, VI, III
- Climate change and extreme weather will increase in frequency and destructive impact in the continental US and Caribbean; disproportionately impacting communities of colors (i.e. Increase loss of life, injuries, health, economic loss, and infrastructure damage).

Implementation:

- Convene a meeting between FEMA, HBCUs, I-DIEM, NEMA, and IAEM for a facilitated discussion on a sustainable partnership to 1) provide guidance on FEMA's development and annual update of PARTNER Act agency plans 2) identify roles and responsibilities to support establishing new HBCU EM and HS programs; 3) identify and other funding and partnership opportunities to support HBCUs and build resilience.

- Per the PARTNERS Act, appoint a senior official (report to the Administrator) to support ongoing collaboration with HBCUs and emergency management partner organizations;
- Increase the number of offerings and conduct EO390 “Integrating Emergency Management Education Into Your Institution” in or around HBCUs;