

## Tennessee HBCU Participation in State Programs October 2021

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A primary goal of HBCU Success at the Tennessee Higher Education Commission is to “strengthen the capacity of HBCUs to participate in state programs” (T.C.A. §49-7-217(b)). These program types range from grant opportunities to collaborative partnerships to technical assistance and compliance.

As further stated in T.C.A. §49-7-217(d), “All state departments and agencies are encouraged to create an annual plan of its efforts to strengthen the capacity of HBCUs through increased participation in appropriate federal programs and initiatives. Where appropriate, each agency plan shall address, among other things, the agency's proposed efforts to:

- (1) Establish how the department or agency intends to increase the capacity of HBCUs to compete effectively for grants, contracts, or cooperative agreements and to encourage HBCUs to participate in state programs;
- (2) Identify state programs and initiatives in which HBCUs may be either underserved or underused as national resources, and improve HBCUs' participation therein; and
- (3) Encourage public-sector, private-sector, and community involvement in improving the overall capacity of HBCUs.

### Inventory of State Programs

The following is a non-exhaustive list of current governmental, higher education-related programs and the Tennessee HBCUs that participate/are affiliated with each.

#### Tennessee Higher Education Commission

- [Tennessee Accreditation Network](#) – A group of accreditation liaisons and other higher education professionals dedicated to improving the academic quality, accountability, and self and peer evaluation processes of SACSCOC member institutions across the state. **Fisk, Lane, LOC, MMC, and TSU**
- [Tennessee Doctoral Scholars Program](#) – Institutional grant that supports minority students in pursuit of a PhD degree, with a focus on STEM disciplines. **Only TSU and MMC are eligible.**
- [Contract Education](#) – Statutory provisions for tuition assistance for graduate students at private institutions in educational programs not offered by public institutions. **MMC – family medicine and dentistry**
- [VETS Campus](#) – Public or private nonprofit institutions that have demonstrated educational support for veterans and are designated by THEC. There are 24 VETS designated campuses across the state. **Lane and TSU**
- [Veterans Reconnect grants](#) – Grant program designed to accelerate the success of veterans already enrolled on Tennessee campuses, and create favorable conditions to recruit new student veterans. **Fisk, Lane and TSU**

#### Tennessee Student Assistance Corporation

- [State Financial Aid](#) – Programs for student financial aid, including Tennessee Student Assistance Award and lottery-funded scholarships (HOPE, TN Promise, TN Reconnect, and dual enrollment grants). **ABC, Fisk, Lane, LOC, and TSU**

#### Tennessee Department of Education

- [Grow Your Own Competitive Grant](#) – A program established to create a teacher pipeline within the state and increase teacher diversity to better reflect the student population. **TSU**

#### Tennessee Department of Health

- [HBCU Wellness](#) – Grant program established by Tennessee General Assembly to promote community health awareness through HBCUs. Administered through the Office of Minority Health and Disparities Elimination, Tennessee Department of Health. **ABC, Fisk, Lane, LOC, TSU, and MMC**

### **Opportunities for Growth**

The following areas/programs at THEC have been identified as being under-utilized by Tennessee's HBCUs. THEC staff have already begun foundational work to include HBCUs in the future, where possible and appropriate.

- [Seamless Alignment and Integration of Learning Support \(SAILS\)](#) – An early intervention program for high school students who score below the ACT college-ready cut off in mathematics. Participating colleges and universities agree to accept SAILS credit in lieu of additional remedial mathematics courses.
- [Diversity in Teaching grants](#) – Biannual grant program that allows institutions to develop capacity for educating and graduating a diverse teacher workforce.
- College Access and Success – Division that sponsors a variety of events and programs targeted at K-12 guidance counselors, students, and their families. Topics covered include Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) completion and college application.

Additionally, there exists strong opportunity for partnership with other state departments and agencies, including:

- Tennessee State Museum
- Agriculture
- Labor and Workforce Development
- Economic and Community Development
- Education
- Tourist Development

Ensuring maximal participation of HBCUs in state programs is a primary goal of THEC HBCU Success. Establishing connections across agencies and departments within state government will ensure that HBCU administration and staff are aware of opportunities available. HBCU Success also commits to providing and securing technical assistance for pursuing these opportunities, where possible.