THE CENTER FOR HBCU RESEARCH, LEADERSHIP, AND POLICY

Inquiry & *Impact*

FALL EDITION · 2026–2027 • HBCUCENTER.HOWARD.EDU

Future Researchers — HBCU Center Host ATI Summer Leadership Training, Summer 2026.

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Welcome to the 2026–2027 academic year

This academic year marks a milestone for the HBCU Center. Established in 2021, we have spent five years partnering with researchers, higher education leaders, and scholars to affirm, amplify, and advocate for HBCUs and HBCU researchers. Our guiding principle reflects an ongoing commitment to the HBCU ecosystem through the support of empirical research, the cultivation of leadership capacity, and the facilitation of critical policy dialogue.

From the HBCU Center Research Network (HCRN), funded by the Gates Foundation, to our Turning Pages Author Talk series, our work is oriented toward building an inclusive HBCU research community that advances professional, institutional, and scholarly contributions.

Dr. Melanie Carter
ASSOCIATE PROVOST & DIRECTOR

> *"HBCU Research Matters. HBCU Researchers Matter."*

As we continue implementing our 2025–2030 Strategic Plan, I invite you to join us in this ongoing endeavor. I wish you a productive and impactful academic year.

Melanie Carter, Ph.D.
ASSOCIATE PROVOST AND DIRECTOR

HBCU Center Research Network (HCRN) →

Turning Pages Author Talk Series →

2025–2030 Strategic Plan →

ASSOCIATION OF HBCU RESEARCH INSTITUTIONS

AHRI: A united front for HBCU research

Interim President Dr. Wayne A.I. Frederick at the AHRI launch

The establishment of the Association of HBCU Research Institutions (AHRI), a coalition of fifteen HBCU research institutions, represents a pivotal moment in the history of Historically Black Colleges and Universities. The generation of knowledge through research is a core function of the university, and HBCUs have long served as incubators of scholarship with far-reaching impact.

AHRI's mission is to *"highlight and support the groundbreaking contributions of member institutions,"* underscoring the centrality of HBCUs in the empirical pursuit of solutions to the nation's most enduring challenges. This formal collaboration, undertaken in partnership with the Association of American Universities (AAU), ensures that HBCU research universities are recognized and supported as essential members of the global research community.

MEMBER INSTITUTIONS

- Clark Atlanta University
- Delaware State University
- Florida A&M University
- Hampton University
- Howard University
- Jackson State University
- Morgan State University
- North Carolina A&T State University
- Prairie View A&M University
- South Carolina State University
- Tennessee State University
- Texas Southern University
- University of Maryland Eastern Shore
- Virginia State University

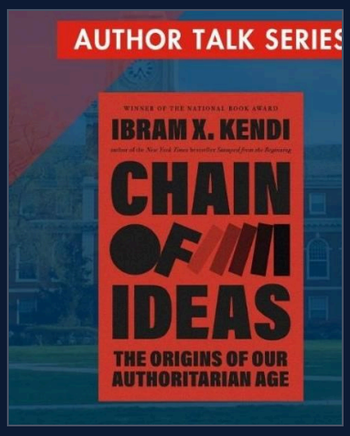
AHRI is led by Howard University President Emeritus **Dr. Wayne A.I. Frederick** (President) and Morgan State University President **Dr. David K. Wilson** (Board Chair).

discoverahri.org →

15
MEMBER INSTITUTIONS

50%
OF ALL COMPETITIVELY AWARDED FEDERAL FUNDING AMONG HBCUS

TURNING PAGES · AUTHOR TALK SERIES



A CONVERSATION NOT TO MISS

Dr. Ibram X. Kendi

Ibram X. Kendi
Inaugural Carter G. Woodson Endowed Chair of History, Howard University

Our latest Turning Pages Author Talk features Dr. Ibram X. Kendi, an award-winning author whose most recent work, *Chain of Ideas: The Origins of Our Authoritarian Age*, examines the intersection of history, ideology, and power in shaping our present moment. The conversation is available in full on the HBCU Center's YouTube channel.

ATI SUMMER LEADERSHIP TRAINING

Cultivating Future Researchers: HBCUs, Leadership, Policy, and Public Impact

Future researchers
DR. MELANIE CARTER PRESENTS TO HBCU CENTER STUDENTS, ATI SUMMER LEADERSHIP TRAINING, JUNE 2026

During Summer 2026, the Center for HBCU Research, Leadership, and Policy hosted HBCU students in the ATI Summer Leadership Training for an immersive engagement centered on research, policy, leadership, and the future of Historically Black Colleges and Universities.

The students represented 14 HBCUs: Prairie View A&M University, Wiley University, Winston-Salem State University, Dillard University, Alabama A&M University, Howard University, Hampton University, Southern University Agricultural and Mechanical College, Alabama State University, Clark Atlanta University, Morehouse College, Spelman College, Fayetteville State University, and Paul Quinn College. Together, these students brought perspectives from institutions with distinct histories, missions, communities, and institutional contexts.

At the center of the students' engagement were a series of consequential research questions about the relationship between HBCUs, public policy, leadership, and democracy: how do federal and state policies shape the institutional capacity and public mission of HBCUs? How do HBCUs cultivate leadership, civic identity, and a sense of public purpose among students? And what can we learn about leadership formation from the traditions, student organizations, faculty mentorship, and institutional cultures that have historically distinguished HBCUs?

Students were encouraged to approach these questions not simply as institutional challenges, but as areas of inquiry requiring evidence, analysis, and attention to the broader political, social, and structural forces that shape higher education. The discussion created space to examine how public policy extends beyond questions of institutional resources and influences student opportunity, institutional capacity, leadership development, civic engagement, community impact, and the long-term sustainability of HBCUs.

Dr. Melanie Carter, Associate Provost and Director of the Center for HBCU Research, Leadership, and Policy, further situated this inquiry within the broader HBCU research and policy landscape through her presentation, "From Research to Public Impact: HBCUs, Policy, and Leadership in Action." The presentation encouraged students to consider what happens after research questions are asked, evidence is gathered, and findings are produced. Research can document institutional conditions and illuminate persistent challenges, but its broader significance is realized when evidence contributes to decision-making, informs policy, guides institutional practice, shapes philanthropic priorities, and strengthens public understanding.

The conversation also invited students to consider HBCUs as important sites of leadership formation, civic identity, and democratic engagement. For generations, HBCUs have educated individuals who have assumed consequential roles in public service, education, law, research, advocacy, business, and community leadership. Examining how that leadership is cultivated — from student organizations and faculty mentorship to institutional traditions and campus culture — offers an important area of inquiry for understanding not only the leaders HBCUs produce, but also the institutional environments and experiences through which leadership is developed.

This engagement reflects a central commitment of the HBCU Center: advancing research that informs decision-making and translating evidence into action. The Center is particularly interested in how research findings can shape institutional practice and campus policy, influence state and federal policy, inform philanthropic priorities, and contribute to broader public discourse. Cultivating future researchers, therefore, requires more than developing the capacity to conduct rigorous inquiry. It also requires preparing emerging scholars to ask consequential questions, analyze evidence within appropriate historical and institutional contexts, communicate findings across audiences, and consider how knowledge can contribute to meaningful institutional and societal change.

The students participating in the ATI Summer Leadership Training represent an emerging generation of scholars and leaders positioned to contribute to the growing body of knowledge about HBCUs. Creating opportunities for students to engage research questions connected to their institutions also encourages them to see themselves not simply as participants in higher education, but as producers of knowledge capable of shaping the policies, practices, investments, and public narratives that influence the future of HBCUs.

As the HBCU Center continues to cultivate future researchers and strengthen the relationship between scholarship and public impact, we invite our readers to consider a broader research question:

What can the study of HBCUs teach us about how institutions cultivate leaders, strengthen civic identity, inform public policy, and contribute to the future of American democracy?

RESEARCH SPOTLIGHT

Advancing Black men through the power of research

Dr. Calvin Hadley

A new perspective on Black male students

Dr. Calvin Hadley's research asks a critical question: what happens when institutions change the way they see Black male students? As a researcher and assistant provost for student engagement and academic affairs, his work begins with a further question — how can institutions better understand,

ASSISTANT PROVOST, STUDENT ENGAGEMENT & ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

welcome, and support Black male students in ways that reflect their diverse needs and potential?

His research examines persistent gaps in male enrollment, engagement, and persistence, while advancing evidence-based approaches to belonging, mentorship, and academic success. This fall, that research is already moving into practice: Dr. Hadley has developed programming designed to welcome male students to campus, deepen connection, and create meaningful opportunities for engagement.

Student success is not simply a matter of who arrives — it is also a matter of whether students feel seen, supported, and equipped to succeed once they do.

> ***Did you know?***
>
> The United Negro College Fund (UNCF) has reported that Black men have the lowest college completion rate of any group, at 40 percent.

RECOGNITION

Celebrating HBCU Excellence

The HBCU Center is proud to celebrate Dr. Melanie Carter, Associate Provost and Director of the Center for HBCU Research, Leadership, and Policy, as a recipient of the Dr. Anthony K. Wutoh Exemplar Award. The award celebrates faculty who embody the Bison Way through excellence in leadership, service, scholarship, and community impact.

This recognition reflects Dr. Carter's longstanding commitment to leadership, scholarship, mentorship, and service across the higher education landscape. Through her work, she continues to advance opportunities for students and scholars, strengthen institutional leadership, elevate the contributions of HBCUs, and contribute to the broader conversations shaping the future of higher education.

Congratulations, Dr. Melanie Carter

ON THIS WELL-DESERVED RECOGNITION!

Celebrating HBCU Research, Leadership, and Impact

The 2026 UNITE Conference provided a meaningful opportunity to connect with colleagues across the HBCU research and policy community while recognizing the 30th anniversary of UNCF's Frederick D. Patterson Research Institute (FDPRI) and its longstanding contributions to research, policy, and institutional advancement.

We also acknowledge Dr. Michael L. Lomax, President and CEO of UNCF, and his 22 years of leadership and continued commitment to strengthening HBCUs and expanding opportunities for the students and communities they serve.

Pictured: Dr. Ebonierose Wade-Ndiaye and Mr. Kwame Jones, Center for HBCU Research, Leadership, and Policy; Dr. Terrence B. Tarver, Legislative Director, Public Policy and Government Affairs, UNCF; Dr. Brandy Jackson, Howard University; Dr. Keeley Copridge, Senior Research Associate, UNCF Frederick D. Patterson Research Institute; and Dr. Jelani M. Favors, Vice President, Frederick D. Patterson Research Institute.

HOWARD UNIVERSITY

The Center for HBCU Research, Leadership, and Policy

WELCOME HOME

HCRN Fellows Homecoming & HBCU Center 5th Anniversary Celebration

Friday

OCTOBER 16, 2026

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#HBCUResearchMatters

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