



DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON DC 20420

SEP 27 2007

Mr. Charles M. Greene
Executive Director
White House Initiative on Historically
Black Colleges and Universities
U.S. Department of Education
1990 K Street, NW – 6th Floor
Washington, DC 20016-5120

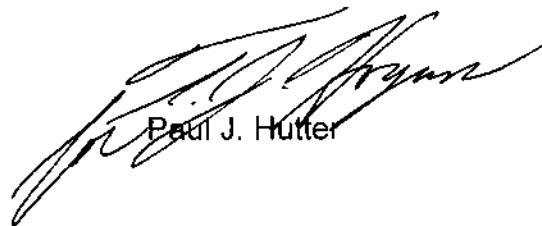
Dear Mr. Greene:

Enclosed is the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Fiscal Year (FY) 2008 Annual Federal Plan for Executive Agency Actions to Assist Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs). This plan reflects VA's continuing support for the objectives of the White House Initiative.

During FY 2008, VA plans to award \$53,135,754 to HBCUs, representing an increase of \$3,545,637 above the FY 2007 Plan. This increase is attributed to a prospective increase in the number of veterans and eligible dependents enrolled at HBCUs during FY 2008.

VA will continue to support Executive Order 13256, President's Board of Advisors on Historically Black Colleges and Universities, and encourage wider participation of HBCUs in VA-sponsored programs. Questions regarding this submission may be directed to Ms. Susan C. McHugh, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Diversity Management and Equal Employment Opportunity, at (202) 501-1970.

Sincerely yours,



Paul J. Hutter

Enclosure

**Department of Veterans Affairs
Fiscal Year 2008
Annual Federal Plan for Executive Agency Actions
to
Assist Historically Black Colleges and Universities**

A. Summary of Agency's Projections

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) implements Executive Order 13256 by developing programs designed to significantly increase the participation of Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) in VA-sponsored programs. The Department's goal is to create a workforce that reflects the diversity of our Nation and its veterans. HBCUs provide VA facilities an opportunity to promote diversity and access a broader base to recruit qualified, trained professionals to serve our veterans.

During Fiscal Year (FY) 2008, VA will seek to achieve the following goals and measurable objectives:

1. To increase the number of students participating in VA's Student Career Experience Program (SCEP) by encouraging more facilities to establish agreements with local or other HBCUs. Through these agreements, VA will provide outreach to increase the potential for young minority professionals to choose VA as their employer.
2. To increase the number of interns participating in the Student Temporary Employment Program (STEP) by encouraging more networks and cemeteries to establish agreements with local or other HBCUs. Through these agreements, VA plans to conduct outreach to increase the potential for young minority professionals to choose VA as their employer of choice.
3. To increase outreach to heighten the awareness among HBCU students of the career opportunities available within VA.
4. To continue to support and fund the National Association for Equal Opportunity (NAFEO) interns in the FY 2008 Student Employment Experience Program (SEEP).
5. To participate in national events and visit educational institutions that target HBCU students.
6. To encourage expansion of academic affiliation programs with HBCUs.
7. To continue efforts to maintain strong partnerships with HBCUs that have established a relationship with VA.

8. To distribute Corporate One-VA marketing and recruitment CD-ROM's to HBCUs.

9. To promote VA employment through the National Association of Colleges and Employers (NACE). NACE facilitates the exchange of knowledge and insight among individuals and organizations focused on the career development and employment of the college educated.

During FY 2008, VA plans to continue the following programs:

1. Under VA's SCEP, increase the number of students participating by encouraging more facilities to establish agreements with local or other HBCUs. Through these agreements, the Veterans Health Administration (VHA) plans to increase outreach efforts to potential young minority professionals to choose VA as their employer.

2. Under VA's 10-week Summer Internship Program administered by NAFEO, continue to allow HBCU students an opportunity to continue to develop their skills in a modern and innovative healthcare system and work in professional environments in VA Administrations and Central Office organizations. Also, VA will continue to support and fund NAFEO's interns to participate in the SCEP. National Cemetery Administration (NCA) will expand their partnership with other HBCUs in an effort to increase and foster participation in the Internship Program.

3. Under VA's SEEP, continue to support the National Nursing Education Incentive (NNEI), Education Debt Reduction Program (EDRP) and various medical affiliations with HBCUs.

During FY 2008, VA plans the following HBCU funding:

1. VA plans to award \$38,726,000 in Legislative Awards and \$14,409,754 in Discretionary Awards.

2. VA plans for funding HBCUs are as follows:

VA plans to award \$53,135,754 to HBCUs, representing a increase of \$3,545,637 above the FY 2007 Plan. This increase is attributed to a prospective increase in the number of veterans and eligible dependents enrolled at HBCUs during FY 2008.

B. Summary of Planned Agency Awards, by Category

1. Legislative Awards – This form provides total planned funding for FY 2008, by category. (See Attachment B-1.)

2. Discretionary Awards – This form provides total planned funding for FY 2008, by category. (See Attachment B-2.)

C. FY 2008 Projected Awards Narrative

Legislative Awards

Category 6 – Student Tuition Assistance, Scholarships, and Other Aid: \$38,651,000 – This category represents educational assistance payments to veterans, dependents, reservists, and service members enrolled in HBCUs. These payments help recipients defray tuition costs while enrolled at HBCUs and other IHEs.

Category 7 – Direct Institutional Subsidies: \$75,000 – This category represents reporting fees covering institutions' costs for processing reports and certifications required by law in the administration of VA educational assistance programs.

Total amount of projected legislative awards: \$38,726,000

Discretionary Awards

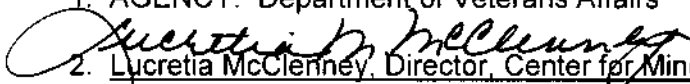
The Office of Academic Affairs plans to maintain or increase funding to HBCUs to approximately \$12 million, 1% of the office's total estimated budget of \$1.2 billion. Also note that indirect support, cost by VA Medical Centers of VA Staff who are instructors for trainees and other administrative costs associated with the program, is the reported cost used for this report.

Category 5 – Fellowships, Traineeships, Internships, Recruitment, and IPAs: \$56,000 – VA will place HBCU students in the Administrations and other VA organizations through the SCEP or in a 10-week Summer Internship Program administered by NAFEO.

Category 6 – Student Tuition Assistance, Scholarships, and Other Aid: \$2,353,754 – It is estimated that a total of \$2,353,754 will be awarded through the following programs: SEEP, NNEI, EDRP, and various medical affiliations with HBCUs.

Total amount of projected discretionary awards: \$14,409,754

1. AGENCY: Department of Veterans Affairs

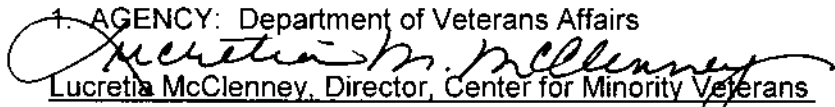
2.  Lucretia McClenney, Director, Center for Minority Veterans
 NAME/SIGNATURE/TITLE OF REPRESENTATIVE 9/27/07
Date

3. TOTAL FUNDS FOR AWARDS TO INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION (IHEs) \$1,699,781,000

LEGISLATIVE AWARDS (\$)

CATEGORY	FY 2008 Projected Funds to IHEs	FY 2008 Projected Funds to HBCUs	Funds to HBCUs as % of Total Funds to IHEs
1. Research and Development			
2. Program Evaluation			
3. Training			
4. Facilities and Equipment			
5. Fellowships, Traineeships, Internships, Recruitment, and IPAs			
6. Student Tuition Assistance, Scholarships, and Other Aid	\$1,696,210,000	\$ 38,651,000	2.3%
7. Direct Institutional Subsidies	\$ 3,571,000	\$ 75,000	2.1%
8. Third-Party Awards			
9. Private Sector Involvement			
10. Administrative Infrastructure			
11. Other			
Total	\$ 1,699,781,000	\$ 38,726,000	2.3%

1. AGENCY: Department of Veterans Affairs


 Lucretia McClenney, Director, Center for Minority Veterans

2. NAME/SIGNATURE/TITLE OF REPRESENTATIVE

 9/27/07
 Date

3. TOTAL FUNDS FOR AWARDS TO INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION (IHEs) \$1,233,297,000.

DISCRETIONARY AWARDS (\$)

CATEGORY	FY 2008 Projected Funds to IHEs	FY 2008 Projected Funds to HBCUs	Funds to HBCUs as % of Total Funds to IHEs
1. Research and Development			
2. Program Evaluation			
3. Training	\$ 1,200,000,000	\$ 12,000,000	1.0%
4. Facilities and Equipment			
5. Fellowships, Traineeships, Internships, Recruitment, and IPAs	\$ 145,000	\$ 56,000	38.6%
6. Student Tuition Assistance, Scholarships, and Other Aid	\$ 33,152,000	\$ 2,353,754	7.1%
7. Direct Institutional Subsidies			
8. Third-Party Awards			
9. Private Sector Involvement			
10. Administrative Infrastructure			
11. Other			
Total	\$ 1,233,297,000	\$ 14,409,754	1.17%