



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

July 2, 2012

On July 2, 1862, President Abraham Lincoln signed the Morrill Act into law, forging a new partnership between the Federal Government and the States to support higher education. On the 150th anniversary of that historic event, we mark an important milestone in our Nation's history and celebrate the invaluable contributions land-grant colleges and universities have made toward providing a "liberal and practical education" for all who seek it.

For more than a century, land-grant institutions have helped bring a college education within reach for more Americans and empowered students with the tools they need to get ahead. They have fueled groundbreaking research that has moved our country forward, and they have partnered with rural communities to develop robust solutions to the challenges they face. Today, land-grant colleges and universities continue to advance these critical missions by embracing the commitment to equal opportunity and daring innovation that inspired their founding 150 years ago.

Generations of Americans have led richer, more productive lives as beneficiaries of the land-grant university system. As we commemorate this historic anniversary, let us reaffirm our support for these institutions of higher learning that help America fulfill its great promise as a Nation.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Barack Obama", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.