



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **HBCU ADVISORY COUNCIL BEGINS ITS WORK**

The newly created Advisory Council on Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) held its inaugural meeting at Southern University at New Orleans on August 30<sup>th</sup>. At this meeting, the council elected its officers and set its goals for the upcoming year. District 4 State Senator Wesley Bishop, whose legislation created the council, was elected Chair. Commissioner of Higher Education, Dr. Kim Hunter Reed, was elected as Vice-Chair.

The council's goals are to strengthen the capacity of Louisiana HBCUs to participate in federal and state programs, Louisiana's workforce, and economic development opportunities. The council will also strive to provide guidance and advice to the commissioner of higher education and the Board of Regents regarding best practices to increase opportunities, financial stability, and public awareness at Louisiana's HBCUs.

"The role, scope and mission of HBCUs are just as important today as when they were first founded. I'm very grateful to Senator Bishop, Commissioner Hunter-Reed, and all others who have made this advisory council possible," said Rick Gallot, President of Grambling State University. "I look forward to the great work that will flow from our collaborative efforts."

Dr. Walter Kimbrough, Dillard University President added, "Senator Bishop has been a tremendous advocate for HBCUs, and his leadership on our Louisiana HBCU Advisory Council now makes our state a leader in integrating HBCUs into the entire state ecosystem. These institutions have provided so much for the state of Louisiana, and through this council we should be able to further leverage these institutions in a way that will benefit everyone in this state."

The next meeting of the HBCU Advisory Council is set for November 14, 2018 at Southern University in Baton Rouge.

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