

Position of the ASU National Alumni Association on New ASU Mission Statement

“The ASU National Alumni Association does not object to the revised Mission Statement resulting from the consolidation of Albany State University and Darton State College. The fact of the “HBCU” term itself not appearing or not being included in the new mission statement, does not mean, in any way, nor does it imply or infer that Albany State University is no longer a “Historically Black College or University”. Such designation/distinction is based in law and no revision or modification of its mission statement changes this fact”.

----The Higher **Education Act of 1965** codified the HBCU designation for all such Colleges/Universities established prior to 1964. These Colleges and Universities had an intention of primarily serving the African-American community and such designation does not change as a result of changes in **student make-up or mission change**.

-----ASU’s HBCU designation is **federally mandated**. Based on the Higher Education Act of 1965, ASU’s **“HBCU” status remains intact** and the University will continue to move forward, building upon the ***institution’s rich and glorious history***.

----The **“HBCU”** term itself is, in fact, specifically referenced in the guiding principles and related documents found in the section titled **“Embrace Diversity”**. Again, the fact that it’s not specifically referenced in the mission statement **does not** impact ASU’s HBCU designation.

-----Additionally, before the new ASU mission statement was drafted, CIC committee members looked at examples of other HBCU’s wherein the term **“HBCU”** is not specifically mentioned in their Mission Statement, (FAMU, Tuskegee, Fisk, Clark-Atlanta), etc.

-----It should also be noted that neither **“student make-up” or “mission statement modifications”** have any bearing whatsoever on the University’s HBCU designation.

-----Bluefield State and West Virginia State Universities give clear evidence of this fact. Their student make-up is 75% majority/13% minority and 72% majority/17% minority respectively. Although each continues to include the **“HBCU”** reference in its mission statement (although coincidental), each could have easily omitted such reference without any material effect on its HBCU designation.

-----We are living in unprecedented times. The manner in which we approach our individual and collective efforts to solidify our presence as a bastion of academic excellence will not only determine how we are viewed and accepted on the national stage, but also our existence within the not-so-distant future. Higher education is transforming before our very eyes—and, it must. **We all must work cohesively and strategically to ensure that this transformation yields the best the “New” Albany State University has to offer. We can choose to remain in the past or enthusiastically embrace and accept change as inevitable; not losing who we are but ascending to the greatness within our reach.**

Note: The ASU National Alumni Association (as a tax-exempt organization),nor its chapters, should engage in any activities that could be viewed as political in accordance with IRS regulations.