

# Proclamation



Jane Castor, Mayor

**WHEREAS, Historically Black Colleges and Universities** is defined by the *Higher Education Act of 1965* as “any historically black college or university that was established prior to 1964, whose principal mission was, and is, the education of black Americans, and that is accredited by a nationally recognized accrediting agency or association determined by the Secretary (of Education) to be a reliable authority as to the quality of training offered or is according to such an agency or association, making reasonable progress toward accreditation;” and

**WHEREAS**, since 1837, when Cheyney University in Pennsylvania was founded, Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) have produced millions of graduates who have led and impacted our nation’s history, delivered on the promise of a better union, contributed to the success of our cities, states, country, and the world, and have served in defense of America within all branches of the Armed Forces; and

**WHEREAS**, Historically Black Colleges and Universities, since their founding, have provided quality educational opportunities, and they have been open to all students, paving a broad avenue of access for students of all creeds, colors, and conditions, and American families have relied on these institutions for generations in providing a solid foundation and the tools for success in all aspects of life including social, financial, community, physical, and self-worth; and

**WHEREAS**, currently there are 107 HBCUs serving approximately 228,000 students nationwide, and they have throughout their history provided Black students, many of whom are first-generation college attendees from low-income families, a place to pursue their aspirations and educational goals in a welcoming environment that recognizes and honors Black Americans’ rich history, experiences, and many accomplishments, and HBCUs remain the leading institutions in granting baccalaureate degrees to Black students in engineering, mathematics, physical sciences and life sciences (STEM fields); and

**WHEREAS**, U.S. President Joseph R. Biden, Jr., on September 3, 2021, signed an Executive Order on Advancing Educational Equity, Excellence, and Economic Opportunity through Historically Black Colleges and Universities to provide the highest-quality education, increase opportunities for these institutions to participate in and benefit from Federal programs, and ensure that HBCUs can continue to be engines of opportunity; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Tampa proudly acknowledges the many HBCU graduates in our city who have contributed to the fabric of our community across professions while breaking barriers, and honors the hard work and dedication of these individuals, and recognizes HBCU’s rich legacy, commitment, and lasting impact on society; and

**WHEREAS, National Historically Black Colleges and Universities Week** is held each year in honor of those HBCUs institutions and educators who have been dedicated to millions of its students and provided them with the very best education possible, and the City of Tampa is celebrating National Historically Black Colleges and Universities Week, this year held September 24-30, 2023, in Tampa City Hall’s Sister Cities Room by honoring its HBCU employees, citizens, supporters, and families who call Tampa, Florida home.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Jane Castor, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the city of Tampa, Florida, do hereby proclaim the week of September 24-30, 2023, as

## “NATIONAL HISTORICALLY BLACK COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES WEEK”

in the city of Tampa, Florida, and urge all citizens to join me in participating in the celebrations that honor HBCUs, recognize the great contributions they have made to our people, nation, and higher education for almost two centuries, and to continue to support them in the future.

Dated in Tampa, Florida, this 24<sup>th</sup> day of September 2023.



*Jane Castor*  
Mayor