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"IT TRIPLE E" PROGRAM FOR HBCU'S

CALL TO ACTION

In support of the White House Initiative on Advancing Educational Equity, Excellence, and Economic Opportunity through Historically Black Colleges and Universities, C1 Government Solutions is leading the effort to design and build a program that HBCU's can access to foster academic excellence and improve the lives of their students.

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CHALLENGES

The persistent lack of diversity in the field of Information Technology is a deeply concerning issue that undermines both innovation and inclusivity. This lack of diversity not only perpetuates inequalities but also limits the range of perspectives and talents brought to the industry. To address this challenge, it is crucial to actively promote diversity through programs that can engage young people in STEM fields of study and give them valuable assistance in launching careers in IT.

HBCU's can play a critical role in developing diverse talent. 25% of African American STEM graduates come from Historically Black Colleges and Universities. With a community of over 101 schools and 350,000 students, HBCU's are a valuable source for young professionals that can bring their unique perspectives to careers in shaping the future of technology. Unfortunately, HBCU's face a number of challenges in accomplishing this goal, including:

1. Funding disparity versus larger institutions with a more established focus on IT.

2. Lack of modern technology tools in classrooms and labs.

3. Older infrastructure that does not provide students access to modern technology.

4. Insufficient attention, involvement, and support from industry.

5. Lack of internships and employment opportunities for students.

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SOLUTIONS

Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) can work together to improve their buying power and leverage their common interests by forming collaborative partnerships and pursuing collective initiatives. Our proposed Program is based on these strategies:

1 **Consortiums and Alliances:**
HBCUs can form a consortium or alliance to combine their purchasing power. By negotiating bulk purchases of products and services, they can secure better deals and discounts from suppliers, reducing costs for individual institutions.

2 **Joint Procurement:**
Collaboratively procure technology products and services through a common contract vehicle. By pooling their orders under pre-negotiated pricing and standardized terms and conditions, HBCUs can reduce expenses and streamline operations. Negotiating bulk software licensing agreements for consortium members can result in substantial savings for institutions while ensuring they have access to necessary tools.

3 **Collaboration with Fundraising and Grant Applications:**
Collaborate on Title III funding and grant applications. By leveraging expertise within the community and sharing best practices, HBCUs can increase their chances of securing funding for important projects.

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POSITIVE OUTCOMES

Empowered Students: The combined IT spend of a consortium will provide rebates and other incentives from technology companies that can directly benefit students and increase economic opportunity.

Paid internships will foster professional development and enhance workplace readiness.

Subsidies from technology companies will help HBCU's establish lab environments to facilitate training and certifications for students.

Students will contribute to the success of their institution by helping to modernize infrastructure and deploy technologies that benefit the entire campus.

Students that are equipped with better skills, experience and certifications will command higher compensation in the job market.

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Increased Enrollment: The opportunities and resources available to students will attract a larger pool of talented students who are pursuing an education in Information Technology. The operational efficiencies and cost avoidance that come with this program will allow schools to focus more resources and budget on recruiting and growing the student population.

Participating institutions will save administrative time and reduce paperwork by eliminating repetitive activities such as searching for sources, preparing new requests for proposals, and negotiating pricing.

Streamlined procurement will reduce costs, lead times, and administrative burden.

Opportunities for internships and certifications will attract more applicants.

Sophisticated lab environments and Tech Centers of Excellence will appeal to prospective students.

Greater Equity and Diversity: Creating engagement with HBCU students and equipping them with the skills and experience they need to have successful careers in IT benefits the entire industry. This effort also supports the goals of Executive Order 13985, Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities Through the Federal Government.

Diverse teams innovate faster, are more resourceful and better at finding untapped potential.

Diversity results in better decisions: Diverse teams can leverage a greater variety of perspectives and are likely to consider information more thoroughly and accurately.

Inclusive workplaces boost employee engagement.

LEADING THE WAY

To implement these strategies effectively and realize positive outcomes, HBCU's need help from industry. C1 Government Solutions understands the importance of HBCU's in fostering academic excellence and creating pathways to opportunity for Black students, and we can have a prominent role in helping the HBCU community create a program to achieve those goals.

The "IT Triple E" Program leverages the IT industry to create Educational Equity, Excellence and Economic Opportunity for the HBCU community. We believe that by working together with support from strategic partners and technology providers, HBCUs can strengthen their position in the higher education landscape, reduce costs, and better serve their students and communities. This is a tremendous opportunity, and we are excited to spearhead the initiative.

MEASURING SUCCESS

There are a number of easily measurable KPI's that can be used to gauge the success of this program, including:

Amount of increased enrollment in IT-related majors/programs

01

Number of graduates with degrees in IT-related fields of study

02

Amount of cost avoidance realized through discounts and rebates

04

03

Placement rate of graduates in IT careers

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