



2019 ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION 92

October 8, 2019 - Introduced by Representatives L. MYERS, STUBBS, CROWLEY, FIELDS, BOWEN, HAYWOOD, SINICKI, HEBL, C. TAYLOR, KOLSTE, ZAMARRIPA, HINTZ, MILROY, CONSIDINE, SPREITZER, SARGENT, HESSELBEIN, ANDERSON, NEUBAUER, BROSTOFF and VRUWINK, cosponsored by Senators L. TAYLOR, JOHNSON, WIRCH, CARPENTER, BEWLEY and HANSEN. Referred to Committee on Rules.

1 **Relating to:** declaring September 8 to 14, 2019, as Historically Black Colleges and
2 Universities Week in Wisconsin.

3 Whereas, historically black colleges and universities are defined as institutions
4 of higher learning established prior to 1964 whose primary mission was, and is, to
5 educate formerly enslaved persons and their descendants; and

6 Whereas, some of the first schools to educate Black Americans began in church
7 basements, abandoned schoolhouses, and private homes; and

8 Whereas, Cheyney University of Pennsylvania, founded in 1837, is the nation's
9 first historically black college in the United States; and

10 Whereas, the Morrill Land-Grant Act of 1890 mandated states to allow blacks
11 admission to institutions of higher education or to build schools specifically to serve
12 them; and

13 Whereas, historically black colleges and universities provided black students
14 with access to higher education at a time when racial segregation was legal and
15 widely practiced; and

1 Whereas, there are 101 accredited historically black colleges and universities
2 in the United States today; and

3 Whereas, historically black colleges and universities empower students and
4 provide them with a diverse, supportive, and collaborative atmosphere in which to
5 learn; and

6 Whereas, nearly 50,000 degrees were awarded by historically black colleges
7 and universities in 2017; and

8 Whereas, historically black colleges and universities have educated countless
9 black leaders who have made significant contributions to American society,
10 including:

11 • The Tuskegee Airmen, educated at Tuskegee University — the first Black
12 American military aviators in the U.S. Armed Forces

13 • William Montague Cobb, educated at Howard University — the first Black
14 American to earn a PhD in anthropology, an advocate who worked to disprove
15 misinformation in racially and socially biased studies in anatomy and anthropology,
16 and the former president of the NAACP

17 • Donald Driver, educated at Alcorn State University — former wide receiver
18 for the Green Bay Packers

19 • W. E. B. Du Bois, educated at Fisk University — the first Black American to
20 be awarded a doctorate, a civil rights leader, and the co-founder of the NAACP

21 • William Finlayson, educated at Meharry Medical College — prominent
22 Milwaukee physician and founder of North Milwaukee State Bank, the first
23 black-owned full-service banking institution in Milwaukee

1 • Althea Gibson, educated at Florida A&M University — trailblazing tennis
2 player and the first black woman to compete in and win numerous competitions,
3 including a Grand Slam tournament and a Wimbledon championship

4 • Ardie Clark Halyard, educated at Atlanta University — founder of Columbia
5 Savings and Loan Association, the first black lending institution in Wisconsin

6 • Katherine Johnson, educated at West Virginia State College —
7 mathematician whose calculations of orbital mechanics as a NASA employee were
8 critical to the success of the first manned spaceflight by the United States

9 • Martin Luther King, Jr., educated at Morehouse College — civil rights leader
10 and Nobel Peace Prize winner who combated racial inequality through nonviolent
11 activism

12 • Vel R. Phillips, educated at Howard University — the first Black American
13 female graduate of University of Wisconsin Law School, jurist, and former Wisconsin
14 Secretary of State

15 • Frances Brock Starns, educated at Spelman College — prominent educator
16 who served as the first director of Milwaukee Public Schools' Head Start program

17 • Oprah Winfrey, educated at Tennessee State University — media executive,
18 actress, philanthropist, the first black female billionaire, and former resident of
19 Milwaukee; and

20 Whereas, it is important to celebrate the legacy and continued significance of
21 historically black colleges and universities; now, therefore, be it

22 ***Resolved by the assembly, the senate concurring, That*** the Wisconsin
23 Legislature recognizes September 8 to 14, 2019, as Historically Black Colleges and
24 Universities Week in Wisconsin.

25 (END)