The Significant Value of Historically Black Colleges and Universities

February 16, 2022
HBCU alumni are more satisfied with their college experience
Black alumni are more likely to feel their goals were met at an HBCU

My education helped me to

- Learn new things
- Gain skills to be successful in work
- Be a good role model
- Be able to support myself and my family
- Become the best person I can be
- Be able to qualify for good jobs
- Make more money
- Advance in my career

Source: 2021 Strada Outcomes Survey, bachelor's degree graduates 2001-2020, n=909 HBCU alumni and 244 Black alumni from non-HBCUs. Percent responding "a great deal" or "quite a bit."
Black alumni report higher value from professors, mentors, and classes at HBCUs, but less from research experiences

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Professors</th>
<th>Classes</th>
<th>Mentoring</th>
<th>Research experience</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Black alumni from HBCUs</td>
<td>80%</td>
<td>85%</td>
<td>70%</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black alumni from non-HBCUs</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>75%</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: 2021 Strada Outcomes Survey, bachelor's degree graduates 2001-2020, n=909 HBCU alumni and 244 Black alumni from non-HBCUs.
Black alumni feel they had better skill development at an HBCU

Source: 2021 Strada Outcomes Survey, bachelor's degree graduates 2001-2020, n=909 HBCU alumni and 244 Black alumni from non-HBCUs. Developed skill "quite a bit" or "a great deal."
HBCU alumni report better career advising and applied learning

Source: Strada-Gallup Education Survey, 2019. Base: Black alumni who attended HBCUs (n=2,155), predominantly Black institutions (n=184), or neither (n=2,910).
Black students research careers and learn about industries from practicing professionals more often at HBCUs

In your courses, about how often have you done the following?

- Researched a career interest, a potential employer, or the job market
- Learned about a career or industry from a practicing professional

SOURCE: 2021 NSSE Career and Workforce Preparation Module.

NOTES: Base = 55,277 participants at U.S. institutions. Sample includes only self-identified Black or African American students attending HBCUs (n=493) and non-HBCUs (n=4,119). Responses represent those who reported “often or very often” to certain activities.
Black students are more engaged in career development at HBCUs

Social capital-building
- Network with alumni or professional
- Meet with career services staff
- Career exploration course
- Mock interviews
- Major or career-related activity
- Interview or shadow
- Career fair
- Use resources from career services
- Career talk, panel, or workshop
- Career profile or self-assessment

General career-building activities
- Discuss career with a faculty member
- Help with résumé

SOURCE: 2021 NSSE Career and Workforce Preparation Module.
NOTES: Base = 55,277 participants at U.S. institutions. Sample includes only self-identified Black or African American students attending HBCUs (n=493) and non-HBCUs (n=4,119). Survey question: Which of the following have you done, or do you plan to do at this institution before you graduate (whether in person or online)? Chart depicts % “done or in progress.”
Key Findings

1. Self-reported outcomes for Black HBCU alumni and students are stronger than those of Black alumni and students from non-HBCUs across a wide range of dimensions, from overall satisfaction to the development of valuable skills.

2. Students and alumni at HBCUs experience an engaged community of faculty, staff, mentors, and professionals who support the development of their careers at a greater level than their peers at non-HBCUs.

3. Black students are more actively engaged in career development activities at HBCUs compared to non-HBCUs.

4. Research experiences and digital literacy skills are two notable areas where HBCU students are less likely than their non-HBCU peers to report value. Greater investments to make these resources available are indicated.
Methodology

Data in this report were drawn from the following sources:

Strada Outcomes Survey
• March to April 2021.
• Nationally representative online survey of 3,309 bachelor’s degree completers from fiscal years 2001 to 2020.
• More than 60 institutions also have chosen to administer this survey to their alumni, in partnership with Strada.

National Survey of Student Engagement- Career and Workforce Preparation module
• Spring 2021.
• 55,277 participant responses from 91 U.S. institutions.

Strada-Gallup Education Survey
• June 2016 to April 2019.
• Nationally representative telephone survey with more than 340,000 respondents aged 18 to 65.
Learn more at StradaInsights.org