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## **NCRF Announces 1<sup>st</sup> HBCU in California to Open Fall 2025 in San Diego**

*Historic partnership brings HBCU Huston-Tillotson University's satellite campus to Bayview MLK Center to honor the HBCU tradition and promote access to higher education*

**WALNUT, CA – March 10, 2025** – In a unique public-private historic partnership that extends across the county, Huston-Tillotson University (HT), an Historically Black College and University, will become the first HBCU in California. Classes will launch in fall of 2025 in San Diego at the MLK Center at Bayview. The site, which dates back to 1960, is a gathering place of cultural significance and a center for Black families to worship and build community and connection.

In an announcement in February of 2024, on *The Jennifer Hudson Show*, Dr. Theresa Price, Founder and CEO, of National College Resources Foundation, revealed the unprecedented deal to bring the first HBCU to California.

The initiative is the result of a long-time collaboration between Dr. Price, Dr. Melva Wallace, President of HT, and Dr. Paul Gothold, former Superintendent Schools of San Diego County Office of Education, and Bayview Church. The continued agreement with HT and Bayview, along with the continued support and guidance of Dr. Gothold, demonstrates their shared commitment to educational equity and access. As mission-driven organizations, coming together now in the name of equity, access and education, is more essential than ever.

Though classes will begin on August 25<sup>th</sup> in Bayview's MLK Center, Bayview is also committed to providing undeveloped land to be built out for student housing and other commercial and community resource needs. HT California will start as a satellite campus, exclusively in San Diego, and eventually grow into a branch campus.

In acknowledgement of this special partnership, Reverend Dr. Terry Brooks, Pastor of Bayview Church, says, "I am humbled and deeply honored to welcome Huston-Tillotson University's satellite campus to our church family. This is such a historic and meaningful moment—not just for Bayview but for our entire community and culture. We are thankful to Dr. Price for following God and pursuing this dream. I am also extremely grateful to President Wallace and her incredible team at HT for inviting us to be part of this groundbreaking journey, bringing the very first HBCU to the West Coast. Together, we're not just making history—we're creating a legacy of hope, opportunity, and empowerment for generations to come."

Huston-Tillotson University, established in 1875, was the first institution of higher learning in Austin, Texas and is accredited by the Southern Association of Schools and Schools Commission on Colleges (SASSCOC).

In a statement filled with gratitude, Dr. Melva K. Wallace, President of Huston-Tillotson University, commented on HT's historic California Campus Launch, "Huston-Tillotson University (HT) is making history as we bring the first-ever HBCU to California, and I couldn't be more excited for our fall 2025 semester to start, when we will officially enroll our first California students and welcome them to the HT family. HT is deeply indebted to Dr. Theresa Price and her team, as well as to Reverend Dr. Terry Brooks and the entire Bayview Church family for opening their doors and hearts to our vision. We could not have accomplished this amazing undertaking without their invaluable assistance. This isn't just about enlarging HT's footprint in the higher education arena, but it's more about expanding educational opportunities and providing that unique HBCU cultural experience to students of color who live on the West Coast. HT is ready, California is ready, and most importantly, our students are ready! We can't wait to get started!"

"We are blessed! For years, I've been on several committees with people trying to bring an HBCU to California. It fills my heart with joy to see HT, Bayview and NCRF coming together to transform students' lives. Our goal now is to bring the rich tradition of HBCUs to another campus in the greater Los Angeles or Inland Empire area in the future," says Dr. Theresa Price, Founder and CEO of NCRF.

In the height of the Civil Rights Movement, Congress officially defined an HBCU as a school of higher learning that was accredited and established before 1964, whose principal mission was the education of African Americans. HBCU's offer culture, a rich history and rigorous academic programs, most important they prepare students for leadership and for life. There are over 100 Historically Black College and Universities (HBCUs). For much of America's history African Americans seeking a college education could only get it from an HBCU. —*Thurgood Marshall Fund*.

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### **About National College Resources Foundation (NCRF) and Black College Expo™**

Now in its 26<sup>th</sup> year, National College Resources Foundation (NCRF) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit educational enhancement organization serving over 200,000 students annually through a variety of impactful programs and initiatives, including its Black College Expo™, Latino College Expo™, Movement Enrichment Program, STEAM Program, Internship & Careers Program, Latino Community Engagement and Student Athletic Program (SAP). Founded in 1999 by Dr. Theresa Price to serve as a vital link between minorities and college admissions, NCRF's mission is to curtail the high school dropout rate and increase degree and/or certificate enrollment among underserved, underrepresented, at-risk, low-resource, homeless and foster students. NCRF's vision is to close the gap in educational achievement, workforce and economic disparities, with the goal of ending racism and racial inequalities.

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