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## HBCU Alumni Alliance Brand Expands with the Establishment of a National Board and the HBCU Alumni Alliance, Inc. of Chicago, IL

Atlanta, GA — The National Historically Black Colleges and Universities Alumni Alliance, Inc. (HBCUAA) of Washington, DC and of Atlanta, GA are proud to announce the expansion of the HBCUAA brand. Effective May 1, 2020, the National HBCUAA Board and the HBCUAA of Chicago, were formed.

The National Board, which is based in Atlanta, GA, is an umbrella organization designed to support the establishment and work of metropolitan affiliation groups and to ensure stellar programming is duplicated across regions. The board's mission is to support HBCU's by increasing alumni reclamation, collaborating on philanthropic community efforts, and promoting a higher awareness of HBCU opportunities among underprivileged minority high school students.

HBCU Alumni Alliance affiliate groups in Washington, D.C.; Atlanta, GA; and Chicago, IL will fall under the umbrella of the National HBCU Alumni Alliance Board. Affiliates include established HBCU chapters in a city or region that have registered with and paid their dues to an Alliance group. Several other cities are exploring the formation of an HBCUAA affiliate, including Philadelphia, PA. The Washington, DC and Atlanta, GA affiliates have very robust programming and will serve as mentors to the new affiliates.

"We've been working on the board formation for some time, so we are enthusiastic about the future of this union," said Daniel Ford, inaugural Chair of the National HBCU Alumni Alliance. "In addition, Chicago has always been a key player in our alumni network and one of the original geographical Alliances established, so having them join us under the National Alumni Alliance organization brings Chicago full circle into the fold."

Danielle James, President of the HBCU Alumni Alliance, Inc. of Chicago, IL said, "We are so excited to be a part of the HBCU Alumni Alliance family." The Howard University alumnus continued, "We look forward to helping to expand the organization brand to alumni and to the African American community in the Greater Chicago Metropolitan area."

The HBCU Alumni Alliance brand is known for health and education programming, as well as for its annual HBCU 5k Run Walk fundraiser. Combined, the Atlanta, GA and Washington, DC affiliates have raised over a million dollars to support students interested in attending a Historically Black College or University.

For over 180 years, HBCUs have played a critical role in ensuring that African Americans and students of all races receive a quality education. There are 101 HBCUs in the United States; 27 offer doctoral programs, 52 offer master's programs, 83 offer bachelor's degree programs, and 38 offer associate's degrees.