

## HBCU Summit

On April 22, 2022, Dr. Phyllis Welch, Department of Sociology and Criminal Justice Chair, and Dr. Annie Gainous Thompson, Assistant Professor, represented Florida A&M University (FAMU) at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual HBCU Summit on the beautiful campus of Florida Memorial University (FMU), in Miami Gardens, Florida. The HBCU participants were FMU, FAMU, Bethune-Cookman University (BCU), and Edward Waters University (EWU).

The HBCU Summit provided an opportunity for faculty, administrators, and presidents to meet and discuss the current and future state of these fine universities. The panel discussions focused on:

- Future Workforce and HBCUs: Preparing the Next Generation of Talent
- Social Justice and Economic Reform in the HBCU Community
- The Future of Funding for Higher Education

Dr. Thompson was a member of the Social Justice and Economic Reform in the HBCU Community. This panel's primary focus was on how to get our students to be more involved with social justice issues that impact the HBCUs. In addition, focused discussion addressed ways to enhance and/or improve economic growth and development opportunities for our universities. The ultimate goal is certainly ensuring our students have what is needed to succeed during their educational journey and afterwards.

Each of the HBCU presidents, Dr. Jaffus Hardrick (FMU), Dr. Larry Robinson (FAMU), Dr. A. Zachary Faison, Jr. (EWU), and Dr. Hiram Powell (BCU), spoke eloquently about the many challenges our HBCUs faced during the COVID pandemic. In addition, they highlighted how preparedness enabled us to be successful during that time, i.e. technological changes and implementation, distance learning. Each also stressed that collaboration is the key to getting things done and ensuring effective planning for the future. There are many beneficial opportunities for our universities and students. We must work together to put ourselves in position to receive them as well as funding these opportunities can provide.



**Dr. Jaffus Hardrick**  
Florida Memorial University  
President

**Dr. Larry Robinson**  
Florida A&M University  
President

**Dr. A Zachary Faison, Jr.**  
Edward Waters University  
President

**Dr. Hiram Powell**  
Bethune-Cookman University  
President