



Hardback 9781137480408
Nov 2014 £60.00 £42.00
\$100.00 \$70.00

316 pp 216 mm x 140 mm

Ebook(s) available from Palgrave Connect, Kobo Books, Amazon Kindle, Mylibrary, Waterstone's, ebooks.com, Google eBookstore (UK), Barnes & Noble, Inc.

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Opportunities and Challenges at Historically Black Colleges and Universities

Edited By Marybeth Gasman and Felecia Commodore

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Marybeth Gasman is Professor of Higher Education in the Graduate School of Education, and Director of the Penn Center for Minority Serving Institutions at the University of Pennsylvania, USA.

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"This is a very thoughtful and informative collection of essays that tackles familiar issues and uncommon topics. It explores the multi-faceted diversity of Black college campuses and adds value to the rapidly expanding scholarship on an important sector of higher education." - Alvin J. Schexnider, former chancellor of Winston-Salem State University, USA, and author of *Saving Black Colleges* (2013).

"Whereas the scholarship on HBCUs is limited, what is available typically paints them with a broad-brush stroke that is not always favorable. Luckily for those of us that understand the unique features of these institutions, Gasman and Commodore have done a masterful job of presenting a balanced and fair assessment of these schools. Their use of qualitative data in the context of quantitative measurements offers concrete evidence that a deeper dive is required beyond that of graduation and retention rates in order to truly appreciate the intrinsic value HBCUs offer." - Nelson Bowman III, Executive Director of Development, Prairie View A&M University, USA

"Marybeth Gasman and Felecia Commodore have done something incredibly important with *Opportunities and Challenges at Historically Black Colleges and Universities*. They have provided an opportunity for a different set of voices from HBCU and higher education talent to be heard. This feat is not to be underestimated or ignored. I celebrate Marybeth and Felecia for not only producing this important literary contribution about HBCUs, but for also endeavoring to provide a platform for these voices to tell their stories." - Michael J. Sorrell, Esq., President, Paul Quinn College, USA

About the book

Opportunities and Challenges at Historically Black Colleges and Universities grapples with the strengths and challenges that historically black colleges and universities (HBCUs) face as the nation's demographics change. Gasman and Commodore with their contributors focus the role HBCUs play in populating and creating pipelines for faculty of color, college administrators of color, and graduate students of color. They also highlight ways in which HBCUs can address the areas of retention, alumni giving, and media relations. Illuminating the major topics that are pertinent to HBCUs and their place in American society, they range from the growing diversity on HBCU campuses to class and elitism issues to study abroad and honors programs. The authors seek to provide a deeper understanding of many major issues in higher education while focusing on the HBCU context and the commitment of HBCUs to equaling the higher education playing field.

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