

Black College Fund

12 Things You Should Know



Don't know much about the 11 historically Black colleges and universities supported by the Black College Fund? Here are 12 things you should know!

12 things you should know about the Black College Fund Schools

1. In 1956, **Bennett College** named Dr. Willa B. Player as its first female president, making her the first African-American woman in the United States to serve as president of a four-year liberal arts college.
2. **Bethune-Cookman College**, founded by Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune, began as the Daytona Educational and Industrial Training School for Negro Girls in 1904.
3. **Clafin University**, the oldest historically Black college or university in Souther Carolina, was the first school in the state to welcome all students regardless of race or gender.
4. Sociologist and civil rights leader W.E.B. DuBois served for 13 years on the faculty at Atlanta University, which later merged with Clark College to form **Clark Atlanta University**.
5. When **Dillard University** graduate Ruth Simmons (1967) became president of Brown University in 2001, she was the first African-American woman to lead an Ivy League institution.
6. Azie Taylor Morton's signature was printed on U.S. currency during 1977-1981 when she served as Treasurer of the United States under the Carter administration. A 1956 graduate of **Huston-Tillotson University**, she is the only African American to hold this office.
7. **Meharry Medical College**, founded by the Freedman's Aid Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church in 1876, is the first medical school in the United States for African-American students.
8. John Wesley Gilbert, **Paine College**'s first graduate (1885), became the first African American to receive an advanced degree from Brown University. He later returned to Paine as its first African-American faculty member.
9. Joycelyn Elders, 1952 graduate of **Philander Smith College**, was the first African American and the second woman to serve as the United States Surgeon General (1993-1994).
10. Established in 1866 by the church's Freedman's Aid Society, **Rust College** is the oldest institution in the Black College Fund and one of only five remaining historically Black colleges and universities created before 1867.
11. James L. Farmer Jr., a civil rights leader who helped found the Congress of Racial Equality, graduated from **Wiley College** in 1938.
12. If every United Methodist church contribute 100 percent to the Black College Fund apportionment each year, the legacy of leadership of these 11 institutions of higher education will continue with strong, consistent financial support.