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July 21, 2016

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

HUSA President Carpenter Attends RNC and DNC As HBCU Rep

WASHINGTON, D.C - Howard University Student Association President Allyson Carpenter is attending the Republican National Convention in Cleveland, Ohio to encourage the Republican Party (GOP) to support congressional funding for historically black colleges and universities (HBCUs). After the GOP Convention, Carpenter will head to Philadelphia with the same goal in mind for the Democratic National Convention.

President Carpenter is attending both conventions on behalf the HBCU student government consortium, which represents more than 300,000 students. Although she is a registered Democrat, President Carpenter says that she believes it is important to reach out to both parties on the issue of HBCU support.

"I will ask anyone who will listen, regardless of their party affiliation, to support HBCUs. This is a nonpartisan issue. HBCUs have an unmatched track record in educating people of color and the country ought to recognize that."

Adriyanna Andreus, President of the DC Federation of College Democrats says, "Funding at HBCUs continues to be separate and unequal which is why the work Allyson is doing for HBCUs is extremely important. HBCUs are the capstone of success in politics for people of color and require the support and inclusion of all parties."

Attending the conventions is the beginning of the fulfillment of a campaign promise -- the FOCUS campaign vowed to advocate for an increase in HBCU congressional appropriations with government officials and party leaders during the February campaign season.

Amos Jackson III, a sophomore political science major, says “It is vital to have a presence on the national level to bring back to Howard student government as a platform for leadership; even if that means taking part in the buffoonery occurring in Cleveland. I look forward to Philadelphia and watching excellence being exemplified.”

President Carpenter says she believes that it would be counterproductive for HBCUs to rely solely on Democrats and the Congressional Black Caucus to push for HBCUs.

“It’s important to remember that congressional support has declined under President Obama. I’m a huge supporter of President Obama, but I haven’t forgotten that his presidency brought \$73 million in cuts for HBCUs in 2009.”

In addition to HBCU congressional appropriations, President Carpenter plans to discuss other issues of interest to black millennials, like police brutality, voting rights, and mass incarceration.

The Democratic National Convention starts on July 25 and runs through July 28.

About HUSA

The Howard University Student Association (HUSA) serves as the primary student government entity on Howard University’s campus. Since its establishment in 1961, HUSA has aimed to be a mechanism for effective change on Howard's campus. Functioning as a rallying point for activists and academics alike, its purpose is to provide input into the University's decision-making process; to act as a spokesperson for the students; and to maintain communications concerning students' interests and concerns in all of the university's schools and colleges.

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