

Adams and U.S. education secretary hold roundtable discussion at Bennett College

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

GREENSBORO — U.S. Rep. Alma Adams (NC-12) and the U.S. Department of Education Secretary Arne Duncan met on June 25 with presidents, chancellors and representatives from North Carolina's 12th Congressional District's Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs). The purpose of the roundtable was to hear directly from local HBCUs about the issues impacting their schools.

"HBCUs have long been a top priority for me, which is why I launched the Bipartisan Congressional HBCU Caucus," said Congresswoman Adams. "Secretary Duncan has remained a strong supporter of our students and institutions of higher learning; I am happy he was able to hear first-hand from the HBCUs in North

Carolina's 12th District. I look forward to working with the administration and my colleagues in Congress, to ensure our HBCUs are not left out of important higher education conversations."

There are more than 100 HBCUs in the United States, with five HBCUs in North Carolina's 12th Congressional District. HBCUs enroll more than 300,000 students every year and graduate 25 percent of African American students in the growing Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) sectors.

During the roundtable discussion, Adams and Duncan met with presidents, chancellors and representatives from Livingstone College, Bennett College, Winston Salem State University, North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University and Johnson C. Smith

University.

Adams is the co-chair of the Bipartisan Congressional HBCU Caucus and member of the House Education and the Workforce committee, and subcommittee on Higher Education.

The Bipartisan HBCU Caucus is currently comprised of 50 Members of Congress. The mission of the Bipartisan HBCU Caucus is to promote and protect the interest of HBCUs by creating a national dialogue; educating Members of Congress and their staffs about the issues impacting HBCUs; drafting meaningful bipartisan legislation to address the needs of HBCUs; supporting students and graduates of HBCUs by increasing access and career opportunities.



Above front left is WSSU Chancellor Elwood L. Robinson, back left is Secretary Arne Duncan, and center at the podium is U.S. Rep. Alma Adams at Bennett College. They and others above met to discuss issues affecting HBCUs.



U.S. Rep. Alma S. Adams (NC-12), left, and U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan visited Bennett College in Greensboro.

Bipartisan congressional HBCU Caucus

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Alma S. Adams (D-NC)
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Winston-Salem Urban League joins national movement to end senior hunger

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

Millions of Americans 65 and over face a double whammy when it comes to eating a healthy diet: their income is fixed, and their spending on food is consuming a larger portion of their budget.

Nationally, adults aged 65-plus have an average annual income of \$41,000 and they spend nearly \$5,200 — or more than 12 percent — on food. Their friends just 10 years younger have a greater income (averaging \$63,000 annually) and they spend less (10.6 percent) on groceries.

The Winston-Salem Urban League in partnership with the National Council on Aging (NCOA) has joined a nationwide effort to support these older adults by helping them access the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

The U.S. Department of Agriculture estimates that only 2 out of every 5 seniors who are eligible for SNAP are enrolled in the program. This means that millions of low-income elders are missing out on this vital program, which provides an average monthly benefit of \$113 to help participants buy healthy food. This benefit could put adequate nutrition within reach for many seniors who are struggling to make ends meet.

The Urban League is one of more than 30 community organizations around the country that is stepping up its efforts to assist seniors in applying for SNAP. The organizations will use NCOA's free online BenefitsCheckUp tool at www.BenefitsCheckUp.org to screen older adults with limited income for their SNAP eligibility.

In 2014, the initiative helped more than 30,000 seniors apply for SNAP through local partners and assisted more than 300,000 to access the SNAP application online.

"We're excited to be part of this proven effort that has the potential to help tens of thousands of low-income older adults improve their health and financial security," said Patricia Sadler of the Winston-Salem Urban League. "Our agency has a strong history of helping seniors in need through employment service. We're confident that increasing SNAP enrollment with BenefitsCheckUp and other proven outreach methods will have a profound effect on the lives of seniors in the 18 counties we serve which are urban and rural."

To find out more about SNAP eligibility contact Tangela Reed the Urban League SNAP enrollment counselor at 336 725-5614 Ext. 3011. For more information on NCOA's senior hunger initiative, visit <http://www.ncoa.org/SeniorHunger>.

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