



OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

DR. MICHAEL HODGE  
*Executive Director*

February 27<sup>th</sup> 2026

The Atlanta University Center Consortium, Inc. (AUCC) expresses strong support for the proposed amendment to the *National Artificial Intelligence Initiative Act of 2020*, requiring that, in awarding financial assistance, there is a special designation for assistance to HBCUs or consortia.

This amendment represents a meaningful and necessary step toward activating the full potential of America's creativity and innovation in the burgeoning field of AI. By ensuring that designated financial assistance supports HBCUs and HBCU-led consortia, the amendment directly addresses significant access to research and programmatic funding that strengthens the national capacity for innovation, discovery, and workforce development.

As a consortium dedicated to advancing collaborative scholarship, scientific excellence, and the development of diverse STEM and AI talent, the AUCC recognizes the transformative potential of this commitment. Targeted funding of this kind will expand research infrastructure, accelerate institutional capacity building, and enable HBCUs to contribute even more fully to U.S. leadership in artificial intelligence—an area of critical national priority.

The AUCC strongly encourages the adoption of this amendment and stands ready to support its successful implementation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michael Hodge'.

Michael Hodge, Ph.D.  
CEO/Executive Director  
AUC Consortium, Inc.