



Media Release

Public Relations

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Agreement allows JSU students to intern with U. S. Immigration and Customs

Jackson State University President Ronald Mason Jr. was one of three HBCU presidents to sign memorandums of understanding on Tuesday, Sept. 11, for student internships within the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, or ICE.

Florida Memorial University President Karl S. Wright and Morgan State University President Earl S. Richardson joined Mason in the nation's capitol to sign the MOUs with Julie L. Myers, Department of Homeland Security assistant secretary for ICE. The agreements create the framework for criminal justice internships within ICE for students from each of the institutions.

As part of the agreement, the historically black colleges and universities will identify qualified criminal justice students to participate in the ICE internship program. The individual programs will provide students with first-hand experience in the law enforcement operations conducted by ICE, and introduce them to the challenges and benefits of a federal law enforcement career.

"These notable partnerships between ICE and our nation's historically black colleges and universities are a win-win for everyone," said Myers, who intends to sign agreements with all HBCUs that offer criminal justice programs. "We are helping to prepare the next generation of criminal justice professionals by mentoring these young men and women and giving them an opportunity to apply the knowledge they gained in the classroom to our law enforcement activities around the world."

Said Mason: "In these times of great challenge for our nation, it is important for all Americans to pull together to ensure a safe and secure future. HBCUs represent a vast

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and often untapped resource of human capital for this country, and anytime we have an opportunity to partner in a relationship that allows us to tap into that resource, it is not only good for HBCUs but good for America.”

Wright agreed with Mason about the importance of HBCUs. “There are 105 of us, and we make up 3 percent of the nation’s colleges and universities, yet we graduate 24 percent of all the black graduates, said Wright. “We have the students and ICE has the internships,” he added. “When our students have the opportunity to work with agencies like ICE, they become a part of the law enforcement family. And we all know that internships like these can often lead to future employment opportunities.”

This agreement is beneficial for all HBCUs, said Cecil Payton, executive assistant to the president at Morgan State University. “Morgan is right across the creek so we have an advantage to the other two institutions. We are excited about the partnership, and we look forward to working with ICE.”

Photos:

President Ronald Mason Jr. signs a memorandum of understanding with Julie L. Myers, Department of Homeland Security assistant secretary for U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement. Pictured standing are Theresa Bertucci, deputy assistant secretary for management, ICE; John P. Torres, director, Office of Detention and Removal, ICE, and Marcy Forman, director, Office of Investigations, ICE.

<http://www.jsums.edu/~announcements/9.11.07Internship2.jpg>

President Ronald Mason Jr. poses for a photo with Cecil Payton, executive assistant to the president, Morgan State University, Karl L. Wright, president, Florida Memorial University, Julie A. Myers, Department of Homeland Security assistant secretary for ICE.

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About Jackson State University

Jackson State University, founded in 1877, is a historically black, high research activity university located in Jackson, the capital city of the state of Mississippi. Jackson State’s nurturing academic environment challenges individuals to change lives through teaching, research and service. Officially designated as Mississippi’s Urban University, Jackson State continues to enhance the state, nation and world through comprehensive economic development, health-care, technological and educational initiatives. The only university in the Jackson metropolitan area, Jackson State is located near downtown, with three satellite campuses throughout the city. For more information, visit www.jsums.edu.

About U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement

The U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of five integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.