1600’s

1645 Harvard College creates an ‘Indian College’ with 20 students. Only two received a bachelor’s. The rest left or perished due to poor living conditions.

1700’s

1776 Continental Congress allocates funds for Dartmouth College for the purpose of educating Native peoples.

1800’s

1824 Office of Indian Affairs established in the War Department.

1837 Cheyney University, the first Historically Black University, is founded by Richard Humphries.

1848 The start of the Gold Rush, which would account for an increased influx of Chinese migrants to the East coast.

1860 Morrill Act passes.

1862 The General Education Board (GEB) is founded by John D. Rockefeller, Sr. The GEB would go on to donate over $63 million to Black colleges in the following sixty years.

1865 End of the Civil War.

1866 Freedmen’s Bureau begins to establish HBCUs.

1868 White northern missionary societies take part in founding some HBCUs; such as Fisk University in Nashville, TN.

1872 Chinese Exclusion Act passed, prohibiting Chinese from entering the country for ten years under penalty of imprisonment and deportation.

1882 Morris Brown College becomes one of the first HBCUs founded through the support of the African Methodist Episcopal Church.

1887 General Allotment Act (also known as the Dawes Act) adopted by Congress. The Act divided tribal land and allotted it for individual people with the guarantee of U.S. citizenship.

1890 Second Morrill Act passes, establishing 17 public HBCUs throughout the South.

1900’s

1902 Snyder Act passed, allowing the Bureau of Indian Affairs to offer educational opportunities to Native people.

1924 Immigration Act of 1924 increases the restriction of the Chinese Exclusion Act and extends the ban to other Asian immigrant groups.

1932 Army after Pearl Harbor, over 110,000 Japanese Americans and new Japanese immigrants interned in war relocation camps under Executive Order from President Roosevelt.

1943 Chinese Exclusion Act repealed.

1944 The presidents of 29 private HBCUs create the United Negro College Fund (UNCF).

1946 The Supreme Court issues their decision on Brown v. Board of Education, ending segregation in both public and private schools.

1949 End of Office of Indian Affairs, renamed the Bureau of Indian Affairs, transferred to the Department of the Interior.

1950 Merritt Act passes.

1963 Daniel Payne becomes the first Black president at a Historically Black College and University (Wilberforce College).

1964 End of the Civil War.

1965 Freedmen’s Bureau begins to establish HBCUs.

1966 Four students from North Carolina A&T sit-in at Woolworth and refuse to leave when service is denied to them due to segregation laws.

1967 Only 66 Native Americans graduated from four-year colleges.

1968 Congress passes the Civil Rights Act, making various forms of discrimination based on race and ethnicity illegal.

1969 Immigration and Nationality Act passed, shifted focus of immigration policy making various forms of discrimination illegal.

1970’s

1972 Civil Rights Act passed, allowing the Bureau of Indian Affairs to offer educational opportunities to Native people.

1975 The Hispanic Scholarship Fund is established with the purpose of granting scholarships to Latino students.

1976 Through AHEC lobbying, the Tribally Controlled Community College Assistance Act passes in Congress, stabilizing constant Tribal Colleges and providing funding for the creation of more institutions.

1977 “Strengthening Historically Black Colleges and Universities” special clause added to the Higher Education Act to ensure that funding was allotted for HBCUs.

1982 18 institutions come together to fund the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU).

1987 The Thurgood Marshall College Fund founded to support public HBCUs and their students.

1992 For the first time, Hispanic Serving Institutions secure federal funds, a total of $12 million.

1993 Haskell Indian Junior College (one of the first Tribal Colleges) offers its first four-year bachelor’s degree.

1994 Through an executive order of President Clinton, the White House Initiative on Educational Excellence is formed.

1999 Congress grants Land Grant status to tribal colleges, allowing for more equitable funding, access to agricultural research programs, and infrastructure grants.

2000’s

2001 The Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus (CAPAC) hosts a symposium on the misperceptions around AAPIs in higher education.


2003 The Asian and Pacific Islander Scholarship Fund is created with the purpose of granting scholarships to Asian and Pacific Islander students.

2010 Major foundations (Lumina Foundation for Education, USA Funds, Walton Foundation, Krieger Foundation) make collaborative investments in MSIs.

2011 Robert Teranishi’s CARE Report on the AAPIs provides a disaggregated look into Asian Americans and debunks the model minority myth.

2014 Penn Center for Minority Serving Institutions opens—the first center dedicated to the empowerment of MSIs.