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Chancellor visits Washington, D.C. for the signing of President Obama's executive order to increase federal funding for historically black colleges and universities

New Orleans, LA – Dr. Victor Ukpolo, the Chancellor of Southern University at New Orleans (SUNO), visited Washington, D.C. on Friday to witness the signing of an executive order to increase federal funding for historically black colleges and universities (HBCUs). The order was signed by President Barack Obama.

The order, designed to strengthen the Executive Order to Strengthen Historically Black Colleges and Universities, will increase capacity and access to federal funding for the nation's 105 HBCUs. Dr. Ukpolo joined other HBCU leaders from across the country for the signing of the order. The group was joined by members of the White House Initiative on HBCUs, led by John Wilson, an alumnus of an HBCU, and Hampton University President William Harvey, along with Congressional representatives including James Clyburn (D-SC), Eleanor Holmes Norton (D-DC) and Congressional Black Caucus Chairwoman Barbara Lee (D-CA).

The first Executive Order to strengthen HBCUs was signed by President Jimmy Carter and has been renewed by every succeeding Presidential administrations. President Obama's administration already has increased funding to HBCUs by some \$100 million in the Department of Education and also invested more than \$2 billion in minority serving institutions, including HBCUs.

To see a video of the ceremony, go to <http://www.whitehouse.gov/photos-and-video/video/strengthening-america-s-historically-black-colleges-and-universities>.

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