



THE NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE AND HISTORICALLY BLACK COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

The National Football League (NFL) is proud of its long history with Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU). Players from HBCU's in the NFL have had a tremendous impact on the game, and they continue to exemplify a standard of excellence and character. In fact, there is an elite brotherhood of NFL Legends who have attended HBCU's that are also NFL Hall of Famers. The NFL is proud of the tremendous legacy fostered by HBCU's, and we look forward to continuing to build upon our strong partnership.

STRENGTH OF HBCU'S, IMPACTING PRO FOOTBALL SINCE 1948

In May 2016, the NFL launched Strength of HBCU's, Impacting Pro Football Since 1948 in partnership with two preeminent HBCU athletic conferences, the Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference (MEAC) and Southwestern Athletic Conference (SWAC). This initiative celebrates and honors the history and impact HBCU's and their players have had on the game, and works to increase career opportunities for students and athletic administrators from these institutions.

In addition to the NFL providing much-needed support to HBCU academic and athletic endeavors, MEAC and SWAC personnel will benefit from programs that include internships at the club and league level, integration of HBCU football operations staff — including athletic trainers, video directors and equipment managers — into existing NFL platforms such as the Pro Bowl, and networking and mentorship opportunities.

Additionally, earlier this year, the Pro Football Hall of Fame (PFHOF) and the Black College Football Hall of Fame (BCFHOF) announced a partnership that will result in a permanent home for the BCFHOF as part of the new Johnson Controls Hall of Fame Village on the PFHOF's campus in Canton, Ohio, adding to the history and association of HBCU's and their players influence on the game.

▲ CELEBRATION BOWL

The NFL, MEAC, and SWAC joined the [Air Force Celebration Bowl](#) in Atlanta, GA, in December 2016 to kick off Strength of HBCU's, Impacting Pro Football Since 1948. The inaugural [NFL Careers in Football Forum](#) introduced 80 students and entry-level athletic department administrators from the 23 MEAC and SWAC institutions to career opportunities in professional football. The event featured panel discussions with NFL and club executives, resume- and skill-building workshops, and a behind-the-scenes look into football operations on game day.

▲ SUPER BOWL LI

Continuing the celebration of the legacy and impact of HBCU's and their players, the NFL [recognized](#) the 29 Pro Football Hall of Fame players who attended HBCU's during Super Bowl LI in Houston, Texas. NFL Legends and former Grambling State players, Doug Williams and the late Paul "Tank" Younger, were also honored in Houston for their achievements and impact on the game. In addition to the on-field tribute during the pregame show on Fox, the NFL honored this elite group the week leading up to Super Bowl LI at several events in Houston including NFL Honors.

The NFL is committed to continuing this historic partnership and celebration of HBCU's and their players.