

---

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

---

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 610 Session of 2019

---

INTRODUCED BY KINSEY, ROEBUCK, KIRKLAND, HILL-EVANS, DELLOSO,  
KULIK, DAVIDSON, JOHNSON-HARRELL, BURNS, SCHLOSSBERG, DEASY,  
YOUNGBLOOD, WILLIAMS, McCLINTON AND RABB, NOVEMBER 14, 2019

---

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, NOVEMBER 14, 2019

---

A RESOLUTION

1 Honoring the legacy of Cheyney University as the oldest  
2 historically black university in the United States and  
3 supporting its reaccreditation by the Middle States  
4 Commission on Higher Education.

5 WHEREAS, Cheyney University was first established as a  
6 teaching institution in 1837, during a time when the majority of  
7 African Americans in the United States were still enslaved; and

8 WHEREAS, In 1983, Cheyney University joined the Pennsylvania  
9 State System of Higher Education as one of the 14 State-owned  
10 universities; and

11 WHEREAS, Despite its record of impressive academic qualities,  
12 by 2015, Cheyney University faced a deficit of \$19 million and  
13 enrollment declined to approximately 700 students, down from  
14 1,470 students in 2008; and

15 WHEREAS, In 2018, the Middle States Commission on Higher  
16 Education (MSCHE) indicated that it was considering revoking  
17 Cheyney University's accreditation; and

18 WHEREAS, Despite these setbacks, MSCHE reported that the

1 quality of learning at Cheyney University had not diminished;  
2 and

3 WHEREAS, Following the election of Aaron Walton as university  
4 president, Cheyney University has taken measures to address its  
5 challenges; and

6 WHEREAS, Cheyney University achieved a fall 2018 freshman  
7 retention rate of more than 70% and closed the 2019 fiscal year  
8 with a \$2.1 million surplus; and

9 WHEREAS, According to a study published in the New York  
10 Times, out of 120 colleges in Pennsylvania, Cheyney University  
11 ranks second best for overall income mobility for students; and

12 WHEREAS, A large majority of Cheyney University students come  
13 from low-income households, with nearly 80% of students having  
14 received Federal grants or student loan aid in the 2017-18  
15 school year; and

16 WHEREAS, Should Cheyney University lose its accreditation, it  
17 would be cut off from any Federal funding, hurting a large  
18 percentage of students that rely on Federal aid for their  
19 education; therefore be it

20 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives honor the legacy  
21 of Cheyney University as the oldest historically black  
22 university in the United States; and be it further

23 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives support Cheyney  
24 University being restored to its rightful place among the elite  
25 historically black colleges and universities; and be it further

26 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives support the  
27 reaccreditation of Cheyney University by the Middle States  
28 Commission on Higher Education; and be it further

29 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives share in the  
30 values of scholarship, diversity, integrity, respect and service

1 that Cheyney University students strive to represent every day;  
2 and be it further  
3 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives commit to  
4 fostering the education and success of every Pennsylvanian.