



## ***Who Got Next? Creating the Next Kamala.***

*Leadership is a process, not a position.* As we celebrate the Vice President of the United States we must recognize the pieces responsible for preparing her for this process. Amidst those pivotal pieces: an HBCU.

As a campus-based professional, university leadership, faculty and staff you influence the experience that students have based on what you do daily. We celebrate you for your long hours, the consistent programming and for creating environments where students can have leadership experiences that develop them personally and professionally.

Sometimes it is easy to lose sight of the impact you have supporting our students. This past year has been a particularly unique one ranging from social justice to global pandemics. Making sure our students survive, not just Zoom fatigue, but in a literal sense, brings with it a different level of stress and expectations that can distract you from the process to get you to the end goal.

The process is what produces premium product. Stop and remind yourself of that. Appreciate the fact that some of the premium products revolve around leadership and legacy. We must step back and reflect on the fact that those same challenges of social justice and global pandemics are also forcing us to culturally draw closer, work more strategic and innovate what we do. In essence, we have been forced to turn tragedy into triumph.

That manta embodies the essence of why Historically Black Colleges and Universities are necessary and relevant. Now, more than ever, utilize this raised awareness, revitalized momentum and the positive energy around this rebirth, and renaissance, relating to the awareness, the value and the significance of why HBCUs were created in the first place. Collaborate with others at different HBCUs to scale the successful initiatives and programs you have on your campus to adopt and institutionalize them on your campus. Be courageous and start new things in your community that meet the needs of your students right now.

Now is the time. You are currently impacting the next generation of leaders. What you do will ultimately influence the answer to our future. Success is intentional not accidental. Your contributions to this success will ultimately answer the question: Who Got Next?