The Shift Ahead: HBCUs, Artificial Intelligence, and a New Vision for Higher Education

Artificial intelligence is no longer on the horizon — it is embedded in our daily lives, shaping everything from how students study to how institutions deliver services. With strong rates of adoption, HBCUs are not lagging behind in the AI revolution. They are exploring it with purpose, experimenting on their own terms, and — if supported — poised to lead.

In May 2025, Huston-Tillotson University, Ellucian, and UNCF conducted the most comprehensive survey to date on AI usage in the HBCU community. Below is a snapshot of the findings.

HBCU students, faculty, and administrators are using AI at incredibly high rates.

98%
of Students

96%
of Faculty

81%
of Admins

report using AI for academic or personal purposes.

Institutions must match AI enthusiasm with real investment.

Although AI is widely used, **fewer than half of respondents say their institutions have formally implemented it.**

Many **administrators (33%)** and **faculty (23%)** don't know whether their institution has any AI strategy at all.

Despite high levels of adoption, concerns and gaps in support persist.

Over 80%
of Administrators and Faculty need training programs on AI

Top 3 Barriers to AI Adoption

1. Data Security & Privacy
2. Bias in AI Models
3. Limited Understanding of AI

Scan the QR code to receive the full report when published and learn how HBCUs' can convert this pivotal moment in to lasting institutional change.

Survey Sample Size
55 students; 133 administrators; 47 faculty from over 50 different HBCUs