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00:00:00,110 --> 00:00:04,300

DELGATO: NASA's the only agency, federal agency with a 1% goal of our total contracting

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00:00:04,300 --> 00:00:06,390

dollars that should be going to HBCU/MIs.

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00:00:06,390 --> 00:00:10,660

Meeting like this really help us increase our goal and also integrate them into our

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00:00:10,660 --> 00:00:12,099

mission which is very important.

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00:00:12,099 --> 00:00:17,410

We're trying to make sure that they are exposed to- we are exposed to their technology

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00:00:17,410 --> 00:00:21,330

and the students that are in there because we are looking for innovation in helping us

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00:00:21,330 --> 00:00:22,670

meet our mission.

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00:00:22,670 --> 00:00:26,500

So, meetings like this are very important and crucial so that we can find out what they

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00:00:26,500 --> 00:00:31,730

can do and they find out what our missions are and that of our prime contractors.

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00:00:31,730 --> 00:00:36,450

This meeting today is very beneficial for the 29 HBCUs that came today because you can

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00:00:36,450 --> 00:00:40,829

look where they can generate a new source

of revenue and also be able to provide opportunities

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00:00:40,829 --> 00:00:43,530

to their students that would not be available anywhere else.

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00:00:43,530 --> 00:00:48,970

BLAKELY – So one of the things the President initiated, shortly after coming into office

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00:00:48,970 --> 00:00:55,149

was to issue an Executive order on Historically Black Colleges and Universities; and one of

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00:00:55,149 --> 00:00:59,610

the things that's pointed out in the Executive Order is to increase the level of funding

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00:00:59,610 --> 00:01:04,750

allocated to Historically Black Colleges and Universities and other Minority Institutions.

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00:01:04,750 --> 00:01:09,920

So, coming to Huntsville today provides us the opportunity to fulfill that mission by

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00:01:09,920 --> 00:01:16,830

pulling together NASA procurement officials, along with representatives from Historically

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00:01:16,830 --> 00:01:21,490

Black Colleges and Universities and other Minority Served Institutions.

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00:01:21,490 --> 00:01:27,420

For me, one of the primary requirements is to make sure the schools understand that the

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00:01:27,420 --> 00:01:30,299

landscape has changed a little bit.

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00:01:30,299 --> 00:01:35,729  
Over the previous decade, we were able to use set aside program funding for HBCUs and

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00:01:35,729 --> 00:01:40,720  
MSIs, but over the last four years, that funding has been removed.

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00:01:40,720 --> 00:01:47,049  
And so now, HBCUs/Minority Serving Institutions must compete with everybody else for those

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00:01:47,049 --> 00:01:51,880  
program funds, which means now we have to take a different tactic in order for them

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00:01:51,880 --> 00:01:53,390  
to be successful.

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00:01:53,390 --> 00:01:59,770  
So we want to encourage them to begin to look at the business necessity, what is happening