

A Resolution by the Faculty of Colorado Mesa University Supporting Historically Black Colleges and Universities in Light of the 2022 Bomb Threats:

WHEREAS: We, as fellow faculty of higher learning – which supports and nurtures structural equity, inclusion, and diversity – we the faculty of Colorado Mesa University (CMU) stand in solidarity with the faculty, students, and staff of Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), especially with the nearly sixty HBCUs targeted by bomb threats between January 1 and February 16, 2022; AND

WHEREAS: The perpetrators of these threats most likely planned them to coincide with Black History Month, making their hate-filled actions all the more reprehensible; AND

WHEREAS: Since 1837, with the founding of Cheyney University of Pennsylvania, HBCUs have been an essential part of the fabric of higher education in the United States; AND

WHEREAS: Today, the 107 public and private HBCUs enroll over 228,000 students, accounting for over 20% of all Black college graduates in the nation; AND

WHEREAS: The HBCU legacy includes the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, a graduate of Morehouse College in Atlanta, and Vice President Kamala Harris, a graduate of Howard University in Washington; AND

WHEREAS: HBCUs do not exist as spaces apart; AND

WHEREAS: HBCUs are an integral part of American higher education, and threats directed towards them are an attack on all colleges and universities throughout the nation; AND

WHEREAS: The recent bomb threats against HBCUs – intended to create fear, stoke division, and silence Black voices – perpetuate a long history of racial targeting in the United States; AND

WHEREAS: Such actions demand that we speak out against these racially -motivated hate crimes;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE FACULTY OF COLORADO MESA UNIVERSITY strongly condemns all violence and threats of violence motivated by racism. Through our example, we will not only act against these crimes, but inspire others to stand for a more just society. As a regional educational leader, the faculty of CMU decries the strain that racist actions place on institutional resources and the debilitating stresses they generate in students, faculty, and staff at HBCUs and at all colleges and universities. We support wholeheartedly the statement made by Marian Turner, an International Studies major at Spelman College in Atlanta, who said, “I shouldn’t have to live in fear when I’m just going to get an education.”