Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) were established in the 1800’s, before the Civil Rights Act of 1964, to primarily serve Black students. HBCUs contributed substantially to the economic progress of Black Americans by providing them with access to higher education in an era of legal segregation.

There are 101 private and public HBCUs in the United States offering 27 doctoral, 52 master’s, 83 bachelors and 38 associate degree programs. HBCUs have a rich legacy of matriculating black leaders into a variety of professions. Xavier and Howard University medical schools graduate 92 percent of the country’s Black doctors.

Notable HBCU alumni include Martin Luther King Jr., Morehouse College; Oprah Winfrey, Tennessee State University; W.E.B. Du Bois, Fisk University; and Vice President Kamala Harris, Howard University. Other well-known HBCUs include Hampton University, Tuskegee University and Spelman College.

NYSUT, a statewide union of professionals, is proud of its history of working with the Black community to advance the civil rights movement and to promote quality education and health care for all New Yorkers.

For more on the important contributions of Blacks, and past NYSUT Black History posters, visit nysut.org/publications.