1654 Harvard College creates an 'Indian College' with 20 students. Only two received a bachelor's. The rest left or perished due to poor living conditions.

1700's

1776 Continental Congress allocates funds for Dartmouth College for the purpose of educating Native peoples.

1800's

1824 Office of Indian Affairs established in the War Department.

1837 Cheyney University, the first Historically Black University, is founded by Richard Humphries.

1844 The start of the Gold Rush, which would account for an increased influx of Chinese migrants to the East coast.

1849 Office of Indian Affairs, renamed the Bureau of Indian Affairs, transferred to the Department of the Interior.

1860 Morrill Act passes.

1865 End of the Civil War.

1866 Freedmen's Bureau begins to establish HBCUs.

1867 White northern missionary societies take part in founding some HBCUs, such as Fisk University in Nashville, TN.

1880's

1882 Chinese Exclusion Act passed, prohibiting Chinese from entering the country for ten years under penalty of imprisonment and deportation.

1885 Morris Brown College became one of the first HBCUs founded through the support of the African Methodist Episcopal Church.

1887 General Allotment Act (also known as the Dawes Act) adopted by Congress. The Act divided tribal land and allotted it for individual people with the guarantee of U.S. citizenship.

1890 Second Morrill Act passes, establishing 17 public HBCUs throughout the South.

1900's

1902 The General Education Board (GEB) is founded by John D. Rockefeller, Sr. The GEB would go on to donate over $63 million to Black colleges in the following sixty years.

1902 Snyder Act passed, allowing the Bureau of Indian Affairs to offer educational opportunities to Native people.

1924 Immigration Act of 1924 increases restrictions of the Chinese Exclusion Act and extends the ban to other Asian immigrant groups.

1942 A year after Pearl Harbor, over 110,000 Japanese Americans and new Japanese immigrants interned in war relocation camps under Executive Order from President Roosevelt.

1943 Chinese Exclusion Act repealed.

1944 The presidents of 29 private HBCUs create the United Negro College Fund (UNCF).

1945 The Supreme Court issues their decision on Brown v. Board of Education, ending segregation in both public and private schools.

1960 Four students from North Carolina A&T sit-in at Woolworth and refuse to leave when service is denied to them due to segregation laws.

1961 Only 66 Native Americans graduated from four-year colleges.

1964 Congress passes the Civil Rights Act, making various forms of discrimination based on race and ethnicity illegal.

1966 Immigration and Nationality Act passed, shifting focus of immigration policy to skills and family relationships with U.S. citizens.

1966 With the pass of the Higher Education Act, HBCUs are redefined as "any... college or university that was established prior to 1964 whose principal mission was, and is, the education of black Americans."

1967 William Peterson publishes an article in The New York Times identifying Asian Americans as 'the model minority' disregarding the specific circumstances of the diverse racial and ethnic group in the United States.

1968 The New York Board of Higher Education establishes Hostos Community College with the sole purpose of educating the Latino population in South Bronx, NY. It is the first bilingual institutional of higher education in the United States.

1968 The Indian Civil Rights Act passes, giving more power to tribal communities.

1968 The Navajo nation creates the first tribally-controlled college in 1968. Navajo Community College (now Diné College).

1972 The presidents of the first six tribal colleges formed the American Indian Higher Education Consortium (AIHEC).

1975 By this year, almost a dozen Tribal Colleges had been established since their advent in 1971.


1975 The Hispanic Scholarship Fund is established with the purpose of granting scholarships to Latino students.

1978 Through AIHEC lobbying, the Tribally Controlled College Assistance Act passes in Congress, stabilizing current Tribal Colleges and providing funding for the creation of more institutions.

1986 "Strengthening Historically Black Colleges and Universities" special clause added to the Higher Education Act to ensure that funding was allotted for HBCUs.

1988 18 institutions come together to fund the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU).

1989 Native Americans, following the lead of the United Negro College Fund, establish the American Indian College Fund, representing over 250 tribal communities.

1992 For the first time, Hispanic Serving Institutions secure federal funds, a total of $2 million.

1993 Haskell Indian Junior College (one of the first Tribal Colleges) offers its first four-year bachelor's degree.

1994 Through an executive order of President Clinton, the White House Initiative on Educational Excellence is formed.

1994 Congress grants Land Grant status to tribal colleges, allowing for more equitable funding, access to agricultural research programs, and infrastructure grants.

2000's

2001 The Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus (CAPAC) hosts a symposium on the misperceptions around AAPIs in higher education.


2003 The Asian and Pacific Islander Scholarship Fund is created with the purpose of granting scholarships to Asian and Pacific Islander students.

2010 Major foundations (Lumina Foundation for Education, USA Funds, Walmart Foundation, Kroc Foundation) make collaborative investments in MSIs.

2011 Robert Teranishi's CARE Report on APAs and AAIs provides a disaggregated look into Asian Americans and debunks the model minority myth.

2014 Peer Center for Minority Serving Institutions opens the first center dedicated to the empowerment of MSIs.