

The 1990s: How Racial Conservatives



Michael L. Williams

December 1990

Bush administration mounts first attack on black opportunities in higher education. Michael L. Williams, assistant secretary of education for civil rights, issues administrative opinion that scholarships, set aside for black students, violate civil rights laws.

November 1994

GOP scores major victory in midterm elections. Republican leadership vows to abolish Department of Education, decrease funding for Howard University, and reduce enforcement of federal affirmative action guidelines.



GOPLLeader
J.C. Watts

May 1995

The U.S. Supreme Court declines to hear an appeal of a lower court decision outlawing race-based Benjamin Banneker scholarships at the University of Maryland. The ruling effectively bans all race-based scholarships at public universities in five states.



Benjamin
Banneker

March 1996

Racially conservative litigation organization, the Center for Individual Rights, wins landmark *Hopwood* case. U.S. appeals court rules that race-sensitive admission program at the University of Texas Law School is unconstitutional. Ruling effectively bans affirmative action in admissions at state universities in the states of Texas, Mississippi, and Louisiana.



April 1996

In response to perceived legal vulnerability as a result of the *Hopwood* decision, privately operated Rice University abandons its race-sensitive admissions program. As a result, the percentage of blacks in the freshman class drops from 10 percent in 1995 to 7.7 percent in 1996 and to 4.2 percent in 1997.

1990

September 1990

Due to large GOP-led increases in tuition, black enrollments in higher education in California drop to 118,000 compared to 142,000 a decade earlier.

START



September 1993

Massive tuition increases of more than 200 percent produce a major drop in enrollments in public higher education in California. Enrollments down by 159,000 from a year earlier. Once again, tuition price increases disproportionately reduce black student applicants and enrollments.



Ward Connerly
Leader of crusade to
abolish race-conscious
admissions nationwide

July 1995

Led by African-American Ward Connerly, the regents of the University of California vote to end race-sensitive admissions at all of the state's university campuses.

September 1995

Mayor Giuliani and Governor Pataki cut financial aid for students at the City University of New York, where 60,000 black students are enrolled. Tuition rises by 156 percent in five years. City University of New York enrolled more African-American students than any institution of higher education in the United States.

November 1996

Consideration of race in admissions to the 200,000-student University of California system outlawed by ballot initiative known as Proposition 209. GOP in state spends \$2.5 million for campaign in support of the proposition.

January 1997

Ward Connerly forms the American Civil Rights Institute, an organization dedicated to eliminating affirmative action nationwide. Racially conservative foundations lend strong support.

Efforts to Curtail Black Opportunities in Higher Education

