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Organization of Reserve Officers Training Corps in Schools

Thomas Montgomery Gregory

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From: Disciplinarians' Association,
To: The Colored Educational Institutions of the United States.
Subject: Organization of Reserve Officers' Training Corps in Schools

Company No.
Fort Des Moines, Iowa,
August 12, 1917.

1. We, the Commandants of Cadets of educational institutions as hereinafter named, the disciplinarians or proctors of Negro institutions of learning so represented or our proxies present at a meeting of the Disciplinarians' Association gathered at Fort Des Moines, Iowa, Training Camp, in training for commissions as officers in the U. S. Reserve Corps, desire to make the following suggestions and representations to the trustees, presidents, principals and officers of the educational institutions for Negroes which we represent here,

2. During the two months of intensive training here, the magical effects of good discipline have been realized in our own persons, habits and ability to do and endure as never before. The efficiency of the military system of organization of men in large numbers for control and effectiveness in any tasks whatsoever, and its great benefits to the individual bring us to the conclusion, unanimously, that wherever possible all our educational institutions should adopt it to as great an extent as possible for the benefit of the young men of the Negro race. Realizing that one of the great weaknesses of the American youth, the Negro not excepted, is the lack of "control" and the ability to concentrate and endure; and believing that these and other good qualities that are best inculcated by military training are essential to well rounded manhood, we earnestly recommend the following course to institutions of learning as above addressed:

Apply to the War Department for the establishment of a Reserve Officers' Training Corps at institutions as provided in General Order No. 49, Act of Congress, June 3, 1916. (Write to War Department for copy of General Order No. 49.) It shows authority of the President to establish and maintain in civil educational institutions Reserve Officers' Training Corps.

The primary object of establishing units of the Reserve Officers' Training Corps is to qualify by systematic and standard methods of training students at civil educational institutions for reserve officers. For this reason we urge upon officers of educational institutions for Negroes to make the application at this time to have their schools designated for such use in order that they may help to supply the large number of officers that may be needed in the long hard war to which we look forward. This, we recommend as a patriotic measure in a great National need, as well as for benefits that will be derived by the youth in the training.

Grover Harden

President

Bruce E. Manning

Secretary.

Members of Association

Name	:	School	:	Post Office	:	State
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