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# STEMUS

HBCU STEM UNDERGRADUATE SUCCESS RESEARCH CENTER

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TRIANNUAL NEWSLETTER

## APPLE, GOOGLE AWARDING MILLIONS IN GRANTS TO HBCUS



Apple and Google grants to HBCUs are the latest moves by the tech giants to add diversity and inclusion to the technology industry.

**O**n the heels of the federal Juneteenth holiday last summer, tech giants Apple and Google announced awards in the tens of millions to several HBCUs.

Apple is awarding \$5 million in Innovation Grants to four HBCUs: Alabama A&M University, Howard University, Morgan State University, and Prairie View A&M University. The money is part of the company’s broader \$100-million Racial Equity and Justice Initiative launched in June 2020.

The three-year Innovation Grants are part of Apple’s initiative to help prepare students for careers in hardware technology and silicon chip design. Apple said the grants will support each university’s engineering school, as well as help expand emerging

coursework and expertise, particularly in computer architecture and silicon engineering.

John M. M. Anderson, dean of Howard University’s College of Engineering and Architecture, said Apple’s commitment will include more than money. “Apple will collaborate closely with our computer engineering faculty to strengthen course offerings and laboratory capabilities in the areas of integrated circuit design, fabrication, and testing,” Anderson said in a statement. “Additionally, through design projects and internships, our students will have the opportunity to engage with Apple engineers and benefit greatly from their knowledge, experience, and mentorship.”

## Apple, Google Grants to HBCUs... cont'd



Google announced it will give \$5-million grants to 10 HBCUs each as part of its initiative to “address the diversity gap in tech.” The grants will go toward scholarships and technical infrastructure for in-person and remote learning, as well as curriculum and career support programs.

HBCU schools receiving the grants are: Claflin University, Clark Atlanta University, Florida A&M University, Howard University, Morgan State University, North Carolina A&T State University, Prairie View A&M University, Spelman College, Tuskegee University, and Xavier University.

Google Chief Diversity Officer Melonie Parker said the \$50-million total commitment is the tech giant’s largest to date for HBCUs. “These initiatives are designed to build equity for HBCU computing education, help job seekers find tech roles, and provide opportunities to accelerate their careers,” Parker said. “(This) further solidifies our commitment to providing access and opportunities for underrepresented groups in tech.

“We’ll continue to partner closely with HBCUs to achieve this shared goal.”

The Apple and Google grants are the latest moves by the tech giants to add diversity and inclusion to the technology industry. ■

“These initiatives are designed to build equity for HBCU computing education, help job seekers find tech roles, and provide opportunities to accelerate their careers.”

MELONIE PARKER  
CHIEF DIVERSITY OFFICER, GOOGLE

### HBCU schools receiving the grants:



Credits: Boeing

# HBCU PENNANTS HEAD TO SPACE

Pennants will fly aboard Starliner during Boeing Orbital Test Flight.



The HBCU pennants, packed aboard Boeing's CST-100 Starliner spacecraft, are part of a special cargo load representing the diverse history of the United States and its space exploration efforts. The Boeing Co. is also striving to inspire diverse students to pursue careers in aerospace, said Boeing President David Calhoun.

Colorful pennants from 14 Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) were packed onboard The Boeing Company's Starliner capsule before its take off from Florida's Cape Canaveral Space Force Station soon on a test flight headed to the International Space Station.

The pennants are part of a special cargo load representing the diverse history of the United States and its space exploration efforts.

"By representing HBCUs on our Starliner mission, we are demonstrating our commitment to working with these institutions to advance equity and inclusion and help ensure a bright future for their students," said Boeing President and CEO David Calhoun. "Closing representation gaps in our company and our industry is a priority for Boeing, and inspiring diverse students to pursue careers in aerospace is an important part of that effort."

Allen University in South Carolina, with which Boeing formed a partnership last

year to establish the Boeing Institute on Civility, will also be represented on the flight, along with: Clark Atlanta University, Morehouse College, and Spelman College (comprising the Atlanta University Center Consortium); Alabama A&M University; Florida A&M University; Howard University; Morgan State University; North Carolina A&T; Prairie View A&M University; Southern University and A&M College; South Carolina State University; Tennessee State University; and Tuskegee University.

A few additional universities Boeing has recruitment partnerships with are also represented.

Boeing designed Starliner in support of NASA's Commercial Crew Program to provide safe and sustainable commercial transportation for crew and cargo to the International Space Station and low-Earth orbit destinations. The current mission was designed to test the capabilities of the spacecraft and Atlas V rocket from launch to docking to a

return to Earth. NASA and Boeing are targeting late 2021 for NASA's Boeing Crew Flight Test, Starliner's first flight with astronauts onboard.

NASA's Commercial Crew Program is working with the American aerospace industry through a public-private partnership to launch astronauts on American rockets and spacecraft from American soil. The goal of the program is to provide safe, reliable, and cost-effective transportation to and from the space station. The space station remains the springboard to NASA's next great leap in space exploration, including future missions to the moon and eventually to Mars.

Liftoff on the United Launch Alliance Atlas V rocket with Starliner was targeted for Aug. 4, but delayed. ■

**Editor's note:** *Starliner is now inside the Boeing production factory. Crews are working with NASA to diagnose and resolve issues with the spacecraft's propulsion system valves.*

## FACULTY FOCUS

# Moges Abebe: Combining Chemistry With Compassion

Chemistry professor teaches students about science... and more.



**M**oges Abebe, Ph.D., has taught college-level chemistry since 1990. A longtime associate professor at St. Augustine's University in Raleigh, N.C., he holds two degrees in chemistry—a bachelor of science degree from Coppin State College and a doctorate in physical chemistry from Howard University.

He was issued a U.S. patent, "Fabrication of Polarization Preserving Fiber Optic Couplers," and he regularly publishes scholarly papers.

And yet, Abebe's work in the science field is not the only work he's passionate about: He's an ordained minister, and has long been devoted to helping human beings in need. "Faith and science go hand-in-hand," he has said, "because they both work with the visible and invisible parts of life."

Abebe has been the subject of several newspaper articles about his work with orphans in his native Ethiopia, and his operation of the Hallelujah Soup Kitchen, which helped the homeless from 2009-2019. Abebe has likened working in the soup kitchen, which served foods such as oatmeal, potatoes, and eggs, to Jesus feeding the multitudes fish and loaves of bread.

Abebe also worked hard for years to found and run an orphanage for children in Ethiopia. The Ethiopian Children's Home, which cared for and raised 21 children, was operated by Abebe and his wife, Tenagne Argaw, who have four children of their own.

## When/how did you become interested in STEM work?

"In the ninth grade, in high school. I had a Peace Corps teacher who came to Ethiopia to teach math, and he got me interested in STEM."

## What is your area of expertise?

"The high-pressure and high-temperature chemistry of water."

## Do you have any advice for students considering a STEM major?

"Two out of the five students in my organic chemistry class have already been accepted to medical schools. I encourage any student with an inclination to science to become a STEM major."

## How do you encourage students who are new to STEM?

"Students come from different backgrounds and experiences, and when I teach general chemistry classes I focus on students who are not good in STEM. I start slow, and by the time I finish they should be able to balance equations, calculate percent yield, heat capacity, and gas equations. And I finish with molecular geometry."

## How do you help your students who are STEM majors to succeed?

"I get them involved in semester projects, and I include their names in the publications I write. The students are so excited and appreciative to know that they have become authors and have their names recognized within the scientific community."

## What do you say to older students wanting a STEM career?

"It is never too late, and age shouldn't stop anyone from trying."

## What degree do you have in addition to the chemistry degrees?

"I went to Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary (Wake Forest, N.C.) while I was working as a chemistry teacher at Saint Augustine's, and I received my master's degree in divinity. My wife and I started a church and I became an ordained minister."

## Why did you start a soup kitchen?

"One of the things that encouraged me was my indebtedness to the people of this great nation. Everything I own is because



College students regularly helped Abebe in his Hallelujah Soup Kitchen, a nonprofit that served the homeless and low-income people from 2009-2019.

## Moges Abebe Passion... cont'd

I was given a visa to the United States, scholarships, and work-study opportunities to finish my education. I was looking for a way to thank Americans, and my wife, so I founded the Hallelujah Soup Kitchen.

"People from every continent of the world came to eat, and many STEM students came to serve."

### Do you still have a ministry at the church you started?

"The church that my wife and I founded closed last year, due to COVID-19, and I am waiting to get back to the ministry."

### What is your latest paper about?

"I just finished one on organic vs. conventional vegetables."

### What's next for you?

"I've written a business plan for Hallelujah Center, an adult daycare service. I would like to write one more paper, but I am not sure of the subject matter. I also want to start writing a book, but I have to think about what to write about and how to approach it."

"In the meantime, I am teaching and planning for next semester... and, like always, life goes on." ■



The Hallelujah Soup Kitchen in Raleigh, N.C., was closed in 2019. "People from every continent of the world came to eat, and many STEM students came to serve," said Abebe.

## MOREHOUSE, CLARK ATLANTA, SPELMAN PREPARE STUDENTS IN ALTERNATIVE INVESTMENTS



Morehouse College, Clark Atlanta University, and Spelman College in Atlanta have become academic partners in a 10-year, \$90-million initiative called AltFinance: Investing in Black Futures. AltFinance—being launched by Global Management Inc., the Ares Management Corp., and Oaktree Capital Management L.P.—is designed to train students to work with investments that include precious metals, real estate, commodities, private equity, hedge funds, venture capital, financial derivatives, and cryptocurrency.

"Morehouse is preparing our students to lead the world of tomorrow, and that includes the alternative investment industry," said David Thomas, Morehouse College President. "As our graduates who are now leaders in the industry have shown, those who control financing often have an outsized impact on societal and economic outcomes. As men of

color intensify their roles as drivers of economic ingenuity and commercial innovation, it is imperative that they have intimate knowledge of the intricacies of complex, alternative investment strategies."

Global Management, Ares, and Oaktree are each contributing \$3 million per year for 10 years to run the program, making AltFinance the first major, multi-firm commitment to increase opportunities in the alternatives industry in partnership with HBCUs. The initiative will provide students with access to scholarships, mentor fellowships, and virtual education in the field.

AltFinance is expected to launch by the first half of 2022 and may expand beyond the three initial partner HBCUs in years to come. For more information on AltFinance, [click here](#).

## STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

## St. Augustine's Junior Wins Inaugural HBCU ANA Education Foundation Scholarship



Bre'cha Byrd is laying the foundation for a career in business administration, and a life of sharing inspiration.

Bre'cha Byrd, a junior in the School of Business, Management and Technology at St. Augustine's University, has become the university's lead-off recipient of an HBCU scholarship from the Association of National Advertisers (ANA) Educational Foundation. The university this year was gifted membership into ANA, a premier resource for the advertising industry

Byrd was one of six talented sophomores nationwide to receive \$5,000 ANA HBCU scholarships last spring. In addition to the financial gift, she will be mentored by an industry executive during her junior and senior years. She will also have open access to ANA's MADE Online (Marketing and Advertising Education) site, which offers career and industry resources, information on virtual events, certification programs, and mentorship.

Byrd was recruited as a student-athlete from Surry County, Virginia, to play basketball for the Saint Augustine's Falcons. The 5-foot-9 guard and small forward had become known for her success on the court, leading Surry County High School to three state championship finals in four years. She was named to the All-State and All-Region teams four times, and, during her senior season, became a state champion and was named the Virginia High School League's Female Athlete of the Year.

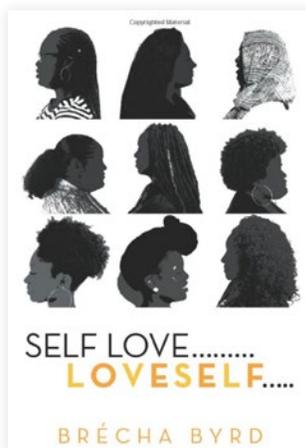
Byrd continues to be passionate about basketball and is anxious for the Falcons' season to begin this October. But the 19-year-old also feels strongly that she has a mission beyond sports—a mission of helping others.

"I just want to make a difference wherever I am," she says, "to learn, contribute and make this world a better place."

Byrd specifically wants to spread inspiration, and one way she's accomplishing that is through a 33-page book she wrote titled *Self Love...LOVESELF*. The book, published by AuthorHouse in November 2019 and released in January 2020, is designed to inspire young girls and women in the journey of self-love.



Throughout middle school and high school, I went through a lot when it came to finding myself, and I wanted to do something for someone else," she says. "My mom told me to tell my story, so I decided to write a book."



"Throughout middle school and high school, I went through a lot when it came to finding myself, and I wanted to do something for someone else," she says. "My mom told me to tell my story, so I decided to write a book."

A prolific writer since childhood, Byrd not only wrote the book, and designed the book cover, but she also drew on her business skills to produce and market it. She directed a promotional video, for example, and created a social media platform for readers to follow. "I'm naturally creative," she explains, "and I've always been passionate about business."

Last summer, Byrd, a business administration major, has been expanding her knowledge of the business world by working as a finance intern with Toshiba Global Commerce Solutions (TGCS) in Durham, N.C. Among other duties, Byrd is assisting with customer-level revenue and gross profit analysis, and doing financial modeling analysis.

"I had the opportunity to be the guest speaker for our Lunch and Learn Series at TGCS," she adds. "I impressed the CEO & CFO. You don't take that for granted."

"I was so grateful for the opportunity. It was a blessing to be a blessing... to shine my light."

Byrd is unsure where she'll end up after college. She's drawn to advertising, but has also enjoyed working in book publishing and, now, finance. Wherever she goes, however, Byrd is determined to make a positive impact.

"I'm open to any opportunity God has for me after graduating from St. Augustine's," she says.

"I can see myself going anywhere. There are no limits."

Other HBCU students receiving 2021 scholarships from the Association of National Advertisers Educational Foundation are: Widmark Cadet Jr., Tennessee State University; Alahna Knight, Virginia State University; Kennedy Sampson, Morgan State University; Kristen Thomas, Alabama State University; and Kamauri Winder, Bowie State University. ■

# STEM-US Webinars Continue Helping to 'Tell the Story' of HBCUs

Webinars teach how to create, fund, and publish successful proposals for STEM projects at HBCUs.

To learn more about the HBCU Undergraduate Success Research Center, the Academic Pipeline, the Analytic Hub (the Center's research arm), and more, visit the STEM-US center at its new website: [stemuscenter.org](https://stemuscenter.org)



## ABOUT STEM-US WEBINARS

Since September 2018, the STEM-US Research Center has offered several webinars designed to promote the positive identity of HBCUs. The webinars are coordinated by Mark Melton, Ph.D., a successful grant writer and dean of the School of Sciences, Mathematics and Public Health at St. Augustine's University.

Past topics have included "How to Identify Funding Sources," "Planning for External Evaluation," and "Strategies for Capacity Building at Small Private/Public HBCUs."

Webinar presenters are representatives of federal and private agencies, such as the National Science Foundation (NSF). During each webinar, a moderator begins with several slides and then opens the floor/chat box for discussion.

"The basis of the webinars are HBCUs working together to develop strategies to write and submit competitive proposals," Melton said. "And one of the best ways of promoting the accomplishments of HBCUs is for faculty members to publish peer review papers. Publishing data in peer review journals requires the acquisition of data through grants, and acquiring grants requires expertise in proposal writing.

"Consequently, one of our aims is to train faculty in proposal writing, so that faculty at HBCUs can tell our story."

## Webinar topics recommended by NSF and now being considered:

- "Efficient Proposal Writing"
- "The Role of Evaluation in a Federal Grant"
- "Locating Appropriate Proposal Submission Programs"
- "Developing a Budget for a Proposal"
- "I was declined: Interpreting Reviewer Comments"
- "Spending Your Budget in a Timely Manner"
- "I've Been Funded: Grants Management"
- "No-Cost Extensions: What are They?"

## Submit Webinar Topics

Interested in new STEM webinars?



Contact:

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# NEWS YOU CAN USE BRIEFS

## FACULTY

### Acorn State Professor Receives Lifetime Organic Achievement Award



The American Society of Agronomy (ASA) has recognized an Alcorn State University professor for his commitment to agricultural research and innovation. Girish Panicker, Ph.D., professor and director of Conservation Research in the School of Agriculture, was presented with the Lifetime Organic Achievement Award from the Society in June.

"I consider this award to be my greatest accomplishment in my many years of professional work in Asia, Africa, and North America," said Panicker. "It has given me a voice that I can use in the best interest of expanding agricultural science. These innovations will help keep our planet and the swiftly growing population healthy."

Panicker recently received a \$500,000 grant from the U. S. Department of Agriculture's National Institute of Food and Agriculture to study 192 varieties of watermelons from around the globe to research the best-grafted watermelons.



### Prairie View Professor at Forefront of Human Genome Research

Prairie View A&M University Professor Noushin Ghaffari, Ph.D., recently published a significant work of research that has broad implications for understanding illnesses such as autism, schizophrenia, cardiovascular disease and

Huntington's disease. "A Robust Benchmark for Detection of Germline Large Deletions and Insertions" appeared in the prestigious magazine "Nature Biotechnology."

Ghaffari worked on the research through a collaboration with the Genome in a Bottle Consortium (GIAB). "I've been collaborating with the national consortium Genome in a Bottle for a few years," Ghaffari said. "The GIAB, led by Dr. Justin Zook from the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), is a public-private consortium that generates reference material for the human genome."

Ghaffari and the team's new research helps physicians and researchers compare genetic material from patients to discover underlying diseases.

### Ozlem Dilek, Ph.D., Selected for Cohort Program



*Ozlem Dilek will take part in highly competitive faculty/research transitioning program.*

Ozlem Dilek, Ph.D., assistant professor of chemistry in the Division of Sciences and Mathematics at the University of the District of Columbia, has been selected for the highly competitive ASCB (American Society for Cell Biology) ACT (Accomplishing Career Transitioning) Cohort 2-year program. ASCB-ACT is a two-year, cohort-based professional development program for biological/biomedical sciences postdocs and assistant professors who are interested in transitioning into faculty and research roles. Each participant must be an underrepresented minority in science or be at a primarily minority-serving institution. Participants will be fully funded for designated ACT activities. The program is sponsored by the National Institutes of Health.



*Ozlem Dilek, Ph.D.*

Dilek received her bachelor's and master's degrees in chemistry from Middle East Technical University in Ankara, Turkey. She completed her doctorate in chemistry/chemical biology at the State University of New York at Binghamton.

### Professor Gets Second Patent for Bowie State in Three Years



Bowie State University Professor Mikhail Goloubev, Ph.D., has secured his second patent for the university in just three years, this time for an electronic device incorporating his method for precise prediction of a projectile's flight.

The physics professor's invention, "Universal Method for Precise Projectile Flight Prediction," allows for the easy, quick, and accurate prediction of the time, location, and speed of a capsule or its debris on any planet. He projects applications to address the challenges of rescue and recovery missions, military procedures, space travel, as well as falling space junk.

"If you know the parameters of a launch—where you launched it, how you launched it, and the speed and direction—then you can say, 'Well, this is where it's going to land,'" Goloubev explained. He added that users can also trace an object's reverse trajectory to determine where and how it has to be launched in order to land in a desired location.

## NEWS YOU CAN USE BRIEFS... cont'd



### \$1-million NSF Grant Awarded to Delaware State

A recently awarded \$1-million grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF) will increase the interdisciplinary research activity at Delaware State University by bringing together researchers and doctoral students from the university's neuroscience and optics programs.



Harbinder Singh Dhillon



Hacene Boukari

Professor of Biological Sciences Harbinder Singh Dhillon is the principal grant investigator; Professor of Physics and Engineering Hacene Boukari is the co-principal investigator.

The three-year, NSF-Research Excellence in Science and Technology grant will enable Delaware State to build on its existing facilities and imaging technology, as well as the expertise of faculty researchers in biology and physics, to offer a series of hands-on, project-based courses in bio-imaging, bio-photonics, and image analysis.

### Anderson Named Engineering and Architecture Dean at Howard



John M. M. Anderson, Ph.D., has been appointed dean of the College of Engineering and Architecture at Howard University. Anderson joined the university in 2002 as an associate professor of electrical and computer engineering.

"Dr. Anderson has served admirably as the interim dean of the College of Engineering and Architecture," says President Wayne A. I. Frederick. "His collaborative leadership

style, extensive research background and open communication with students, faculty, staff and alums will continue to serve the college well."

Anderson holds a bachelor of science degree in electrical engineering from Brown University, a master of science degree in electrical engineering from the Georgia Institute of Technology, and a doctor of philosophy degree in electrical engineering from the University of Virginia.

#### GENERAL



### Elizabeth City State University Takes a Top Spot in Affordability



The college ranking website [UniversityHQ.org](https://UniversityHQ.org) has named Elizabeth City State University (ECSU) one of the top most affordable computer science program in the country. According to the site's listing for 100 Best Affordable Computer Science School Degrees, ECSU took the number-two spot due to a number of factors, including financial aid and tuition.



"ECSU's bachelor of science in computer science, with concentrations in data science or computer information systems, is one of the best-kept secrets in Northeastern North Carolina," said Kenneth L. Jones, Ph.D., chair of the Department of Mathematics, Computer Science and Engineering Technology. "We're thrilled to see that the secret is getting out through this recognition."

UniversityHQ's ranking criteria also includes retention rates. Because student success

is a top priority for ECSU, the university recently announced the launch of the VikingPlus program, a comprehensive set of initiatives to help students afford a high-quality college education. The university has provided a total of some \$4.2 million in free credits, additional emergency funding, and housing and meal plan grants since spring 2020.

### Bowie State Providing Students With New Path to Grad School



Bowie State University (BSU), one of the nation's oldest HBCUs, has signed an articulation agreement with The Chicago School of Professional Psychology (TCSP), providing a new path to graduate school for BSU psychology students.

The agreement enables active Bowie State psychology undergraduate students to take graduate-level courses at TCSP's Washington, D.C., campus, while completing their bachelor's degrees at BSU. The courses will count toward students' BSU bachelor's degrees and their eventual graduate degrees from TCSP.

### Piedmont Airlines Donating Aircraft Engines to Students

To increase the awareness of technical aviation careers to a diverse student population, Piedmont Airlines Inc. is donating aircraft engines to select aircraft maintenance education programs on the East Coast.

Recently, for example, Piedmont donated engine number six to the University of the District of Columbia Community College (UDC-CC), in Washington, D.C.,

## NEWS YOU CAN USE BRIEFS... cont'd



*Piedmont Airlines Inc. is donating aircraft engines to select aircraft maintenance education programs on the East Coast.*

one of the few HBCUs in the nation with an FAA-certified Airframe & Powerplant program. Piedmont's engine had been put in storage when Piedmont retired its fleet of deHavilland DHC-8 "Dash-8" aircraft in 2018.

UDC's Aerospace Technology Program offers two related paths of training in aviation: the Aircraft Mechanic's Certification and the Aviation Maintenance Technology Program. Both are centered at Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport.

"The best way to learn hands-on skills is by doing hands-on practice and with a real engine," said Bill Arndt, vice president of maintenance and engineering at Piedmont. "We want to show students the pathway to a maintenance career starting with a regional airline right in their back yard."

### STUDENTS + ALUMNI



## Spelman Students Win \$1 Million in Goldman Sachs Market Madness Competition

Spelman College students competed against teams from seven other HBCUs last spring to win \$1 million in the Goldman Sachs

Market Madness: HBCUs Possibilities Program. The competition, which is in its inaugural year, was the culmination of a four-month class in finance fundamentals offered to 125 HBCU first- and second-year college students.

The HBCUs Possibilities Program is part of the company's \$25-million commitment to support and invest in the power of HBCUs. Students from Florida A&M University, Hampton University, Howard University, Morehouse College, Morgan State University, North Carolina A&T State University, and Prairie View A&M University also participated. The winning team—Britney Kwakye, Gia Tejeda, Whitney Williams, Anisah Thomas, and Caroline Whitfield—took home top honors after presenting a strategic solution to Procter & Gamble, the subject of the case competition.

## Fayetteville State Students Awarded NASA Internships



Three Fayetteville State University (FSU) students—Khaffak Ansari, Jennifer Barkley, and Alexandra Jannetta—have all received internships at NASA. The three students are a part of FSU's MBA program in the Broadwell College of Business and Economics and the College of Health, Science, and Technology.



Ansari, Barkley, and Jannetta took part in the 2021 National Technology Transfer and Commercialization competition, and worked at the Kennedy Space Center in Florida, George C. Marshall Space Flight Center in Alabama, and at the Ames Research Center in California.

## Alcorn State Alumnus Named Natural Resources Chief



Terry Cosby '82 of Alcorn State University has been named chief of the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). Cosby, a longtime employee of the U. S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), was the state conservationist for Ohio and has been serving as acting chief of the NRCS.

Cosby grew up on a Mississippi cotton farm once owned by his great-grandfather, which gave the Alcorn alumnus a deep appreciation for the land. He earned a bachelor's degree in agriculture education at Alcorn, and began His career at USDA more than 42 years ago as a student trainee in Iowa.

National Association of Conservation Districts President Michael Crowder said he is confident Cosby will lead NRCS in the right direction. "His extensive experience in conservation as a farmer, a sportsman, and state conservationist will further strengthen NRCS' impact on the nation's land as we work with our national partners to support America's farmers, ranchers and forest landowners."

## Department of State Names Gharun Lacy Head of Security Efforts



The U.S. Department of State has appointed Howard University alumnus Gharun Lacy '99 to lead its cyber and technology security efforts as deputy assistant secretary and assistant director for the DSS Cyber and Technology Security Directorate. The Cyber and Technology Security Directorate, which brings together cybersecurity, technology security, and investigative expertise, is a crucial part of the Department of State's law enforcement and security strategy.

## NEWS YOU CAN USE BRIEFS... cont'd

Lacy is a security engineering officer and career member of the senior foreign service. Before being named deputy assistant secretary, he served as director of the countermeasures program in the Office of Security Technology and as regional director for security engineering for the Middle East and North Africa. Earlier in his career, he led the Security Engineering Services branch for traveling secretaries of state.

### National Geographic Makes FVSU Donation in Honor of 'Critter Fixers' Stars



### BOWIE STATE

## Cultivating the Next Generation of Innovators

**Bowie State University opens  
Entrepreneurship Living  
Learning Community.**

On Aug. 11, Bowie State University (BSU) celebrated the opening of its new Entrepreneurship Living Learning Community (ELLC), an inclusive community where students can create, innovate, network with peers, and immerse themselves in an "entrepreneurial ecosystem." A virtual ribbon-cutting ceremony took place on Aug. 11.

The \$42-million innovation hub and residential community houses the university's Entrepreneurship Academy, which helps students create their own business opportunities, and the Bowie Business Innovation Center, a business accelerator and collaborative workspace for technology companies and government contractors in Prince George's County, Maryland. The facility will also provide public retail space and resources for entrepreneurs, and help meet the university's growing demand for on-campus student housing with a residence hall for more than 500 students.

Bowie State officials envisioned the Entrepreneurship Living Learning

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12

## CRITTER FIXERS: COUNTRY VETS

NATIONAL  
GEOGRAPHIC  
WILD



National Geographic has made a \$50,000 donation to Fort Valley State University (FVSU) in honor of two FVSU alumni starring on the TV show "Critter Fixers: Country Vets." The donation—for a full-time undergraduate student majoring in veterinary technology—honors co-stars Dr. Terrence Ferguson and Dr. Vernard Hodges.



Dr. Vernard Hodges (left) and Dr. Terrence Ferguson are being honored with a \$50,000 scholarship donation to Fort Valley State University.

Viewers see the veterinarians encounter unique cases and care for animals in their office as well as on farm visits throughout rural Georgia. Ferguson and Hodges both majored in veterinary technology at FVSU and attended veterinary school at Tuskegee University.

The National Geographic scholarship will be awarded to a student demonstrating financial need, and must be used to pay for tuition, books, supplies, and other fees.

"This scholarship will help create a real career pathway for a student who aspires to become a veterinarian," said Anthony Holloman, Ed.D., vice president for university advancement. "It will also further highlight the outstanding academic opportunities that exist here at FVSU for prospective students to study veterinary technology—especially students from underrepresented communities."

"Critter Fixers" has been renewed for a third season, starting in Spring 2022. ■

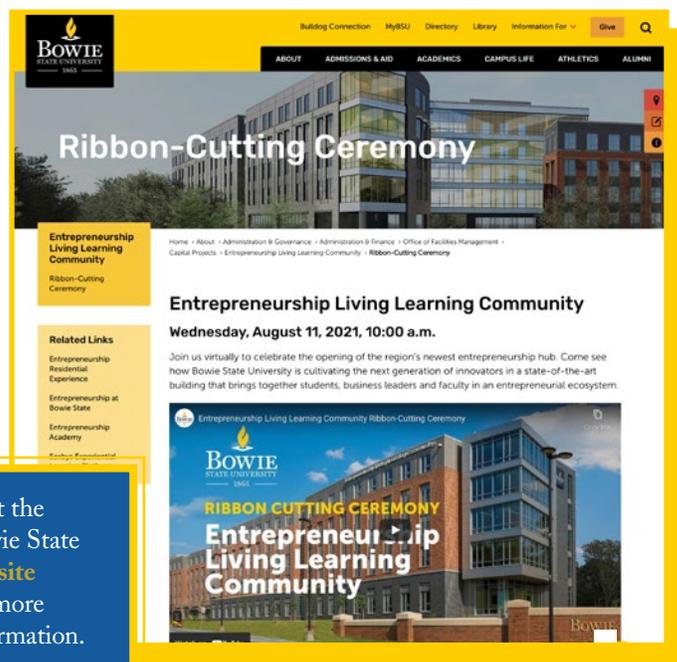


## Cultivating the Next Generation... cont'd

Community as a gateway to the Bowie State campus and a real-world innovation hub that encourages creative collaboration and entrepreneurial thinking.

“This unique project was envisioned to open the campus to our surrounding community and to help strengthen our connection to the economic engine of the region,” said BSU President Aminta Hawkins Breaux at the ELLC’s groundbreaking in October 2019. “Among other goals, I hope that this new facility will encourage those thousands of cars that pass the campus each day to stop and learn more about what I see at Bowie State University each day—excellence.”

Bowie State University, Maryland’s oldest HCBU, began in 1864 in a Baltimore church. Since then, it has become a diverse public institution offering baccalaureate, graduate, and doctoral degrees in its schools of business, education, arts and sciences, and professional studies. ■



Visit the Bowie State website for more information.



# HBCU STEM Undergraduate Success (STEM-US) Research Center

## PROJECT TEAM MEMBERS



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The HBCU STEM Undergraduate Success Research Center (STEM-US) at Morehouse College studies how the formation of scientific identity in HBCU students builds confidence and motivates them to graduate and succeed with science, technology, engineering, and mathematics degrees. The STEM-US Research Center also aims to disseminate information that impacts mainstream education reform in STEM areas and promote the academic value of an HBCU education. STEM-US is supported by a National Science Foundation (NSF)-HBCU Undergraduate Program (HBCU-UP) Broadening Participation Research Center grant, number 1818458.