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STEMUS

HBCU STEM UNDERGRADUATE SUCCESS RESEARCH CENTER

ISSUE 10

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FALL 2023 NEWSLETTER



USDA Grants \$33 Million to Support Projects at 19 Land-Grant HBCUs

National Institute of Food and Agriculture Capacity Building Grants Program will fund 82 research, extension, and education projects at the 1890 land-grant universities.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has announced grants of \$33 million to support projects at 19 HBCUs designated as land-grant institutions—institutions that provide research-based programs and resources for residents within their state.

Funding, through the USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA), will support 82 research, extension, and education projects, such as reducing the use of plastics, enhancing nutritional value in vegetables, and addressing shortages in sunflower seed oil. These projects are part of NIFA's 1890 Capacity Building Grants Program, which is designed to build capacity for teaching, research, and Extension activities.

Eligible institutions are receiving funding for a range of activities, including curriculum design, materials development, faculty development, student recruitment and retention, and Extension program development support.



AAB International

TSU



2

FLYING HIGH AT TEXAS SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY

TSU's Professional Pilot Program Earns International Accreditation

The professional pilot aviation program at Texas Southern University (TSU) has earned one of the highest levels of recognition in the industry by being accredited by the Aviation Accreditation Board International (AABI). The AABI accreditation runs through July 31, 2028.

TSU becomes just the second HBCU in history to achieve AABI accreditation, widely regarded as the gold standard, for an in-house aviation professional pilot program, reported HBCU Connect.

"This is one of the proudest days in our program's history," said Terence Fontaine, executive director of aviation at TSU. "Being accredited by the AABI puts us in the company of the top aviation programs in the country. It is a testament to the hard work and dedication of our fantastic students, faculty, staff, leadership, alumni, advisory board, and partners who have shown their commitment to ensuring our program reaches the highest level possible."

The 2022-23 academic year was one of unprecedented success for the program, according to TSU officials. Enrollment increased 32 percent, and the largest class of aviators in TSU's history enrolled for the fall semester. The program's fleet now includes two full flight simulators and seven aircraft, with a new, customized Cessna. The planes are housed at Houston's Ellington Airport, but they eventually will be housed in a new hangar being constructed at the Houston Spaceport.

In addition, the program has placed its first four pilots into Destination 225°, Southwest Airlines' program dedicated to training and leading aspiring pilots, TSU officials noted.



Mary Evans Sias, Ph.D.

"The aviation program at TSU has experienced an upward trajectory for many years, and this prestigious accreditation is a major step in accelerating future progress," said TSU's Interim President Mary Evans Sias, Ph.D., who assumed the role of acting president in June. "The result is an affirmation of what we have known to be true: The aviation program at Texas Southern University is one of the best in the nation."

"We want airlines to know that when hiring pilots, TSU prepares and produces future pilots to be competitive in the aviation industry." ■



USDA GRANTS ...cont'd.



USDA photo by Preston Kerse

Funding from a USDA grant for 1890 land-grant institutions will support 82 projects, including one at Fort Valley State University addressing shortages in sunflower seed oil.

"The work these universities will take on as a result of this funding will have ripple effects far beyond the walls of their laboratories and classrooms," Agriculture Deputy Secretary Xochitl Torres Small said in a statement. The investments will help "deliver real-life, applicable solutions to make our food system stronger, while at the same time inspiring a next generation of students and scientists who will help us meet tomorrow's agricultural challenges," Torres Small added.

One project at North Carolina A&T State University was awarded some \$250,000 to researchers to conduct farm trials of biodegradable mulches, which would be an alternative to plastic mulch. Central State University was awarded approximately \$500,000 to explore the use of a perennial flower as a way to improve honey production. Tennessee State University was awarded \$100,000 to evaluate climate resiliency in legume species. And projects funded at the University of Maryland Eastern Shore include studies to improve the health of pasture-raised poultry, and research beneficial microbes for soil health.

"USDA looks forward to the impact these visionary projects will have in improving the supply of affordable, safe, nutritious and accessible food and agricultural products, while fostering economic development and rural prosperity in America," National Institute of Food and Agriculture Director Manjit K. Misra said.

Universities sharing in the \$33 million are: Alabama A&M University, Alcorn State University, Central State University, Delaware State University, Florida A&M University, Fort Valley State University, Kentucky State University, Langston University, Lincoln University of Missouri, North Carolina A&T State University, Prairie View A&M University, South Carolina State University, Southern University and A&M College, Tennessee State University, Tuskegee University, University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff, University of Maryland Eastern Shore, Virginia State University, and West Virginia State University.

The 1890 land-grant institutions are HBCUs established under the Second Morrill Act of 1890, which stipulated that African Americans were to be included in the U. S. Land-Grant University Higher Education System without discrimination. ■



BRIDGING THE DIGITAL DIVIDE

EQUINIX WORKING WITH FISK UNIVERSITY TO ADVANCE DIGITAL INCLUSION FOR STUDENTS.

Equinix, a leading digital infrastructure company, is now helping to advance digital inclusion for students at Nashville's Fisk University.

Equinix digital is partnering with Fisk, as well as organizations such as the #BlackTechFutures Research Institute, to address issues like funding for IT infrastructure and research, tech education and bridging the gap in racial tech disparity. Equinix works to interconnect organizations in finance, manufacturing, retail, transportation, government, healthcare and education across "a digital-first world."

In the United States, inequitable access to technology and connectivity has particularly impacted Black Americans, historically marginalized communities, and HBCUs, which often have substandard digital and IT infrastructures that are prohibitive to the best possible learning environment, Equifax and Fisk officials have said. And public infrastructure does not yet adequately serve Black communities.

Some 38 percent of Black households in the rural South, and 22 percent of Black households nationwide, reportedly lack internet access. About 31 percent don't own computers and 50 percent lack necessary digital skills.

Equinix began its relationship with Fisk University in 2020 with an internship program. The company furthered the relationship by teaching courses on development for Fisk students. "When we got to campus, we met some of the best students this nation has to offer. But we were shocked to find that just two miles from the famous Broadway Street and downtown Nashville, at an institution of

higher learning where future leaders' minds are being shaped, there wasn't enough bandwidth to complete a video call," Equinix officials said.

Fisk students and faculty had reported to Equinix a range of learning interruptions, including: slow, unstable internet connection in dorm rooms; being limited to working in the library and one lecture hall, where Wi-Fi connection is strongest; internet service disruptions during critical events like online exams or internship and job interviews; instructor frustrations and class cancellations due to connectivity problems; and having to pay out of pocket for personal hotspots.

To help Fisk students, Equifax has planned to provide:

- Equinix-sponsored classes on front-end development and full-stack development, along with volunteer support for peer mentoring and tutoring for students;
- An Equinix internship program, as well as a hiring path to Equinix for students and interns; and

• A four-year commitment by the Equinix Foundation totaling \$1 million to fund Fisk's technology infrastructure modernization plan.

"Fisk students and interns at Equinix have consistently demonstrated an enthusiasm for learning, collaborating and having fun while they acquire technical expertise," Equinix officials said. "We're excited and proud to invest in the university's technology foundation—which will benefit all students and create a more effective learning environment."

Find out more about Equinix [here](#). ■

"I am excited to take full advantage of the classes, internship opportunities, and broadband access offered by Equinix, and I am thrilled to see all of the success and positive impact of this partnership on my campus."

MICHAEL G. HENDERSON '24





MOREHOUSE COLLEGE HOSTS 2023 HBCU STEM-US CONFERENCE

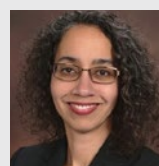


PRESENTERS INCLUDED:



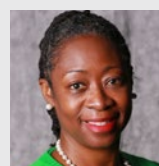
DR. ETHELL VEREEN
Morehouse College

"Infusion of Inquiry-based and Culturally Responsive Science Teaching for STEM Education"



DR. TALITHA WASHINGTON
Howard University

"The Interplay Between STEM and Data Science in Higher Education"



DR. MONIQUE EARL-LEWIS
Morehouse College

"Focusing on Excellence in STEM Student Success at HBCUs"



DR. CURTIS BYRD
Morehouse College

"Transitioning to the Ph.D. and the Use of Academic Pipeline Programs"



DR. AMANDA MARIE JAMES
Emory University

"Grad School or Not? Choosing, Applying and Getting into the Grad School Perfect for You"



Spencer



Williams



Melton



Beale Spencer

Also speaking were: **Tirzah Spencer**, principal investigator at the John S. Watson Institute for Urban Policy & Research; **Talitha Williams**, associate professor of mathematics and mathematics clinic director at Harvey Mudd College; **Mark A. Melton**, professor of biology at Saint Augustine's University; and **Margaret Beale Spencer**, the Charles F. Grey Distinguished Service Professor Emeritus at The University of Chicago.

STEM leaders from across the country convened at Morehouse and Spelman colleges Sept. 7-9 for the 2023 HBCU STEM-US Conference.

The conference was an opportunity for STEM colleagues across the country to share insights into teaching innovation and pedagogy, as well as develop connections across STEM disciplines, said Derrick M. Bryan, Ph.D., STEM-US Research Center director. "The spirit of our conferences has always been one of community, collaboration, and collegiality, and we value diversity and welcome contributions from all aspects of the STEM community."

Attendees were invited to attend cutting-edge STEM research presentations and professional development sessions, listen to motivational keynote speakers, and attend a Graduate Professional Fair at the African American Hall of Fame in the Martin Luther King Jr. International Chapel on the Morehouse campus.

For more about the HBCU STEM-US Research Center, visit [here](#).

Funding for the conference was made possible, in part, by Grant Number HRD-2025221 and Grant Number HRD-2010676 from the National Science Foundation.

MOREHOUSE

COLLEGE

Ida B. Wells Society for Investigative Reporting Moves to Morehouse from UNC-Chapel Hill

Nonprofit focuses on increasing number of journalists of color in investigative reporting.



The Ida B. Wells Society for Investigative Reporting, a news trade organization dedicated to increasing and retaining reporters and editors of color in investigative reporting, has moved from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill to Morehouse College.

The Society—named for Ida B. Wells-Barnett, a prominent Black journalist, activist, and researcher, in the late 19th and early 20th centuries—was founded by veteran journalists in 2016 at the City University of New York. The group was created to provide students with advisers and mentors, and help students prepare for ethical careers in journalism through skills building in investigative and social justice reporting. The Society also seeks to educate news organizations and journalists on how the inclusion of diverse voices can raise the caliber, impact, and visibility of investigative journalism as a means of promoting transparency and good government.

Pulitzer Prize-winner Nikole Hannah-Jones, a Society co-founder, applauded the group's move to an HBCU. "This partnership helps our young organization settle more deeply into our mission, which is to increase the number of investigative reporters of color," she said. "Being located on the campus of a historically Black college located in Atlanta in proximity to other HBCUs, and coming to Morehouse just as it gets its journalism major off the ground, provides a tremendous opportunity for us to increase our impact on the field and society."

The Ida B. Wells Society moved to Harvard University in 2018 and then to UNC-Chapel Hill in 2019. Co-founders were: Hannah-Jones, known, particularly, for "The 1619 Project"; Ron Nixon, vice president of news and head of investigations, enterprise, partnerships and grants at The Associated Press; Topher Sanders, an award-winning investigative reporter at ProPublica; and Corey Johnson, a Pulitzer Prize-winning investigative reporter at ProPublica.

"We are beyond excited to be repositioned at Morehouse College and are

looking to carry on the Society's excellent efforts to help diversify the ranks of investigative journalists," said Robbie Morganfield, Ph.D., new executive director of the Society. "Never has the work inspired by the life and example of Ida B. Wells been more important than it is now.

"We are confronted daily with social, economic and political issues that threaten the very fabric of our democracy. Indeed, there are forces trying to dismiss the legitimacy of concerns facing marginalized communities in our nation by trying to erase the accuracy of history and its critical impact on contemporary life," he noted.

"Investigative journalism is a critical tool in ensuring that those forces are not successful."

Ron Thomas, director of the Morehouse Journalism in Sports, Culture and Social Justice department, called the Ida B. Wells Society for Investigative Reporting a natural fit for Morehouse. "Our journalism program intentionally tries to fill the gaps in media that rarely are populated by Black reporters and editors," Thomas said.

"Investigative reporting is one of those areas in which Black faces are seldom seen and there is no organization I would rather see us partner with than the Ida B. Wells Society as they attempt to solve that problem by training our own students, those from other colleges, and professional reporters trying to add to their skill set. So often, keen investigative skills are needed to unearth the truth when social justice issues are explored."

The Morehouse journalism program was founded in 2007 with a generous grant from alumnus Spike Lee '79 and the late pioneering Black sports journalist Ralph Wiley. The program became an official degree-granting major in July 2021, offering a bachelor's degree in journalism in Sports, Culture and Social Justice. Students participate in foundational courses such as news writing, sports reporting, mass media law, and multimedia and visual storytelling. ■

SCIENTIST

Maurice Edington

NAMED PRESIDENT OF THE UNIVERSITY OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA



Maurice D. Edington, Ph.D., a physical chemist who rose from a junior faculty member to executive vice president and chief operating officer at Florida A&M University (FAMU), is now the 10th president the University of the District of Columbia (UDC). Edington, an accomplished scientist, educator and university administrator with a proven track record of improving student retention and graduation rates, replaced Ronald Mason Jr., who stepped down last summer.

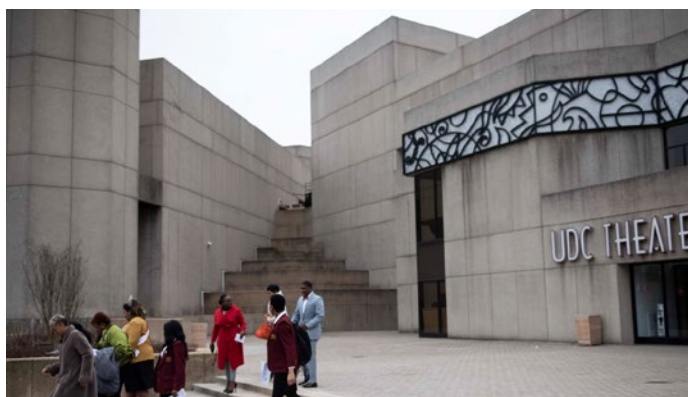
UDC officials said Edington's track record at FAMU, where he helped improve retention and graduation rates, made him a perfect fit for the institution. And Edington returned the compliment saying, "The UDC mission aligns perfectly with my personal passion and commitment to serve students, transform lives and uplift communities." Edington began his work at UDC in August.

In his 25 years at FAMU, Edington went from being an assistant professor to provost, to the second highest ranked administrator at the Tallahassee campus. He served as founding dean of the FAMU College of Science and Technology and spearheaded development of the college's inaugural strategic plan, guiding the revamping of the college's tenure and promotion criteria, and implementing several academic support initiatives that helped to increase student success rates in several science and mathematics gateway courses. In addition, Edington helped to establish strategic partnerships with several corporations and government agencies to garner support for the college's strategic priorities.

Edington is a physical chemist with a research specialty in ultrafast laser spectroscopy. He has also conducted research and provided training to faculty in STEM education, with a focus on using active learning instructional strategies to enhance critical thinking skills.

The new UDC president received his bachelor's degree in chemistry from Fisk University and earned a doctorate in physical chemistry from Vanderbilt University. He also completed postdoctoral studies at Duke University, where he was a National Research Service Award Postdoctoral Fellow.

UNIVERSITY OF THE
DISTRICT OF
COLUMBIA
1851



Students, faculty and others leave a convocation ceremony in February 2020 that celebrated the founding of University of the District of Columbia.

Edington has said that education transformed his life, from his impoverished childhood in California to his years as a researcher and academic leader. "Because of my personal story, I have a strong commitment to help students change the trajectory of their lives," Edington explained. "I like to learn. I like going to school. And I just really had a desire to get out of my circumstance."

The only public university in the nation's capital and the only urban land-grant university in the United States, UDC is committed to a broad mission of education, research, and community service. For more about UDC, click [here](#). ■





PRAIRIE VIEW
A&M UNIVERSITY

First HBCU to Lead National University Transportation Center

Prairie View A&M University (PVAMU) has been selected by the U.S. Department of Transportation to lead a historic, national-tier University Transportation Center (UTC).

Joined by the Texas A&M Transportation Institute, Texas A&M Engineering Experiment Station, and Texas A&M University, Prairie View will lead the National Center for Infrastructure Transformation, which will focus on extending the life of the nation's infrastructure and enhancing its durability. The UTC Program advances state-of-the-art in transportation research and technology, and also develops the next generation of transportation professionals.



Judy Perkins, P.E.

"I am delighted that this award has put Prairie View A&M University's long-held transportation research expertise on the national stage," said Judy Perkins, P.E., a professor of

civil and environmental engineering who has been named center director. "Prairie View A&M University's leadership, expertise, and spirit of innovation will, as the center's name suggests, work to transform our nation's infrastructure over the next five years and beyond."

Perkins holds a master's degree in civil engineering from the University of Illinois and a doctorate in civil engineering from the Georgia Institute of Technology.

The National Center for Infrastructure Transformation, which will receive \$4 million per year for five years, is one of only five awarded national-tier centers. ■

Spelman



7

Five Spelman Students Awarded Spotify NextGen Scholarships

Spotify, the global music and podcast streaming platform, has awarded scholarships to five Spelman College students through its NextGen program.



Sophomores Rokiyah Darbo, Taylor Mills, Ashley Rawls, Bailey Johnson, and Tellisa Massey were selected to receive \$10,000 in annual scholarships each for three years. Beyond financial support, the students will also have the opportunity to become Spotify ambassadors.

The NextGen Scholarship provides multi-year funding for students pursuing audio media careers, including podcasting, storytelling, writing, sound engineering, and music. Full-time enrollment and a minimum GPA of 3.0 are also prerequisites. The scholarships are an integral component of the NextGen program, powered by Spotify's Creator Equity Fund, an initiative designed to elevate podcast culture at HBCUs. Spelman College was selected as the first HBCU to participate in the program.



Helene Gayle, M.D., MPH

"We look forward to collaborating with Spotify on the new NextGen programming that will be offered to help further elevate the voices and creative content of our students," said Helene Gayle, M.D., MPH, president of Spelman College. "At the core of what drives the Spelman experience is our students' ability to combine their academic learning and practical experiences as pathways to career and entrepreneurial opportunities.

"Thank you to Spotify and [Michelle Hite](#), Ph.D., associate professor of English at Spelman, who helped make this partnership possible."

Hite guided 17 students through a course focused on the NextGen audio-first curriculum during the Spring 2023 semester. The students created a [podcast series](#) exploring the murder of Emmett Till and the enduring cultural legacy of his death. ■

For more about the Spotify NextGen program at Spelman visit spelman.edu.

ALUMNI FOCUS

FLORIDA A&M ALUMNA **FAMU** Tamia Potter

FIRST BLACK WOMAN NEUROSURGERY RESIDENT AT VANDERBILT

Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University (FAMU) alumna Tamia Potter, M.D., has made history as Vanderbilt University's neurosurgery residency program's first Black woman resident—the first in Vanderbilt's 150-year history.

Potter learned the news on National Match Day last spring when thousands of graduate medical students found out where they would do their residency

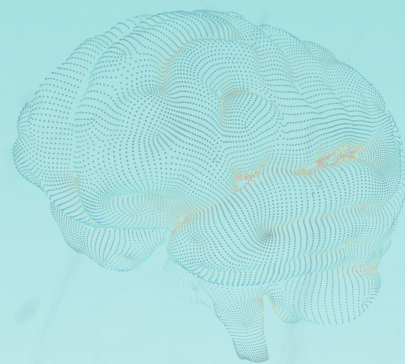
training. The historic match brought Potter, a graduate of the Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine, one step closer to achieving her goal of being a neurosurgeon.

Potter, who graduated summa cum laude from FAMU in 2018, told CNN that being an FAMU alumna proves that it's possible to go to an HBCU and achieve everything you want to make your dreams come true. "A lot of people feel like when you go to an HBCU, you are sacrificing quality, and that is something that people should not believe," she emphasized.

"My first job was a certified nursing assistant at 17 years old in 2014. On March 17, 2023, I was blessed to be selected as the first African American female neurosurgery resident to train at [Vanderbilt University Medical Center for Neurosurgery].

"You read about how people make history," Potter added. "You don't think that's going to be you."

Potter, a native of Tallahassee and a third-generation FAMU Rattler, became fascinated with the brain when she was a young girl, and continually questioned her mother, a nurse, about why the body works the



Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University (FAMU) alumna Tamia Potter, M.D., has made history as Vanderbilt University's neurosurgery residency program's first Black woman resident—the first in Vanderbilt's 150-year history.



way it does. "I knew [then] I wanted to learn and understand how the brain and nervous system worked; I wanted to be a neurosurgeon."

Potter earned her certified nursing assistant license at age 17, during high school. Later, at FAMU, while earning a bachelor's degree in chemistry with a

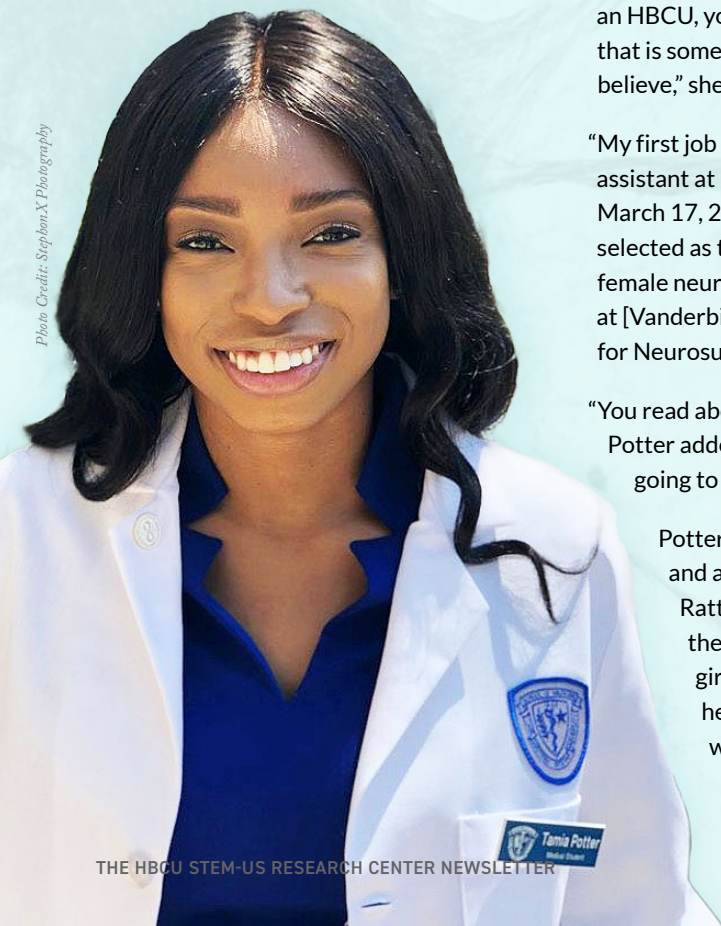


Photo Credit: StephonX Photography

Tamia Potter... cont'd

Photo courtesy of Tamia Potter



Tamia Potter and VUMC first-year neurosurgery resident Kwadwo Sarpong take a selfie outside the hospital.

minor in biology, she spent many nights working the night shift as a nursing home certified nursing assistant. Caring for those with dementia sparked her interest in understanding and solving the mysteries of illness that plague those with neurological diseases and injuries. "Everything that I'm doing, everything that I'm learning, everything that I experience is for the betterment of someone else," Potter said.

Potter has credited Case Western Reserve's challenging medical school curriculum, its

research opportunities, and the depth of the university's clinical exposure for preparing her for residency. She has also emphasized the importance of mentors.

Only 5.7 percent of U.S. physicians identify as Black or African American, the Association of American Medical Colleges has reported. And only 33 Black women neurosurgeons are practicing in the United States today, according to the American Society of Black Neurosurgeons. While some may criticize Vanderbilt for taking 150 years to add to that number, the situation is not unique, Potter said.

"This is normal. Most of these places have not trained Black women before."

Looking to the future, in addition to working as a neurologist, Potter plans to assist the American Society of Black Neurosurgeons and Women in Neurosurgery to spread awareness for increasing accessibility to neurosurgery. She also recognizes her responsibility to

"It is okay to be unique, it is okay to be different, but it is important to appreciate the differences that you have and learn how to make your path."



be a mentor for other students, including setting an example for Black and brown students who look up to her, she said. "I want them to understand that it is okay for your journey to look different from those around you. Sometimes it is very scary because everything that has worked for everyone else is not working for you.

"It is okay to be unique, it is okay to be different, but it is important to appreciate the differences that you have and learn how to make your path." ■

Morgan State University, Partners Launch Regional Hub for Black Entrepreneurship



Mary Foster, Ph.D.



Laura Gamble

A national entrepreneurship center that supports Black business owners has launched a regional hub at Morgan State University to help students and community members create and expand businesses. The Howard University and PNC National Center for Entrepreneurship—a Washington-based initiative of PNC Bank—are partnering with Morgan State, reported The Baltimore Sun.

The program on the northeast Baltimore campus is one of four newly created regional entrepreneurship hubs that will form a larger network in the nation's HBCUs, as well as underserved communities nearby. Other hubs are reportedly being opened at Howard University, Clark Atlanta University, and Texas Southern University.

"There are many rich resources already out there, so we want to not reinvent the wheel, not duplicate things," said Mary Foster, Ph.D., associate professor in Morgan State's Earl G. Graves School of Business and Management. "We want to create new things that are needed to help reduce

disparities for Black entrepreneurs."

Programs at Morgan and the other hubs will focus on education, research and business outreach to help youth, college students and Black business owners. The ultimate goal is to boost employment and generational wealth in Black communities, PNC said.

"Entrepreneurism is really a huge part of economic development regionally," said Laura Gamble, regional president of PNC Bank for Greater Maryland, in an interview. "We want to see new business formation. We want to see people getting hired, people having more opportunities for building generational wealth." ■



Holly Rachel Appointed Executive Director of Fisk's Freeman Center



Fisk University has named Holly Rachel executive director of its new Darrell S. Freeman Sr. Incubation and Innovation Center. Designed to spark strategic partnerships between academia and industry, the center was launched earlier this year with support from former Nashville Mayor John Cooper and Fisk University leadership.

The Freeman Center offers students a learning environment beyond the conventional classroom settings, and businesses have the opportunity to engage Fisk's intellectual capital and top talent. Students, for example, are being connected to startups, investors, and other collaborators they might not otherwise encounter in a center designed to provide a community, resources, and the physical environments essential to fostering entrepreneurial exploration and innovation.

Holly Rachel, an executive, educator, and entrepreneur, has more than 15 years of experience in helping companies and founders realize their goals. She is co-owner of the technology consulting firm Rachel + Winfree Consulting and president of the Nashville chapter of Blacks in Technology, a global organization aimed at increasing the number of minorities in tech

by expanding educational opportunities. Additionally, she has created and launched numerous successful education programs, including Local Tek Thrive and Healthcare Data Training.

Rachel graduated from Oakwood University with a degree in biochemistry and holds a master's degree in chemistry from Vanderbilt University.

"I (was) very excited to begin this new role," Rachel said. "With its focus and location on the campus of Fisk University, the Freeman Center will bring something completely unique to Nashville's entrepreneurial landscape.

"We hope this center will further inspire a startup culture to support neighborhood growth and development while also attracting established corporations and their workforces."

Burrus Hall on the Fisk campus is being renovated to house the center. The new space will host a variety of events,

including tech boot camps, workshops, mentoring sessions, and programs for local small business owners and entrepreneurs.

The Freeman Center had been in the planning stages for several years before gaining traction when business leaders and the mayor's office took an interest in realizing the late Darrell S. Freeman Sr.'s dream of creating a business resource center in North Nashville. Freeman, a self-made millionaire, served as a mentor and benefactor for aspiring Black entrepreneurs.

The Middle Tennessee State University graduate and trustee was the first in his family to go to college. Freeman built the tech company Zycron Inc., which provides employees with assistance in implementing their information technology plans. Freeman sold Zycron for more than \$20 million, and then became known for investing thousands of hours and millions of dollars into helping young, disadvantaged people go to college, and assisting Black entrepreneurs to succeed. Freeman died in 2022. ■



Kenya Freeman speaks about her father in front of Burrus Hall at Fisk, now being renovated. (The Tennessean)



CONTINUES STUDENT-TECH SUCCESS

In 2023, CodeHouse has gained new partners, a third cohort of CodeHouse Scholars, and Forbes recognition for its founders.



Ernest Holmes



Jaycee Holmes



Tavis Thompson



CodeHouse, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit founded by Morehouse College alumni that focuses on tackling the diversity gap in the tech industry, has announced its partnership with four new partners: Paradigm, DropBox, Slalom, and Zillow. These partners join several others, including Google, PayPal, and MLT, in financially supporting CodeHouse scholars and providing them with resources and tools to learn about career opportunities at their companies.

CodeHouse also recently welcomed 25 college freshmen to be a part of the third cohort of the CodeHouse Scholars Initiative. Successful applicants were selected based on written essays, teacher recommendations, and GPAs. Each student is awarded up to \$20,000 in academic scholarships, and assigned a collegiate mentor from participating HBCUs as well as an industry mentor.

Three co-founders of CodeHouse—Morehouse alumni Ernest Holmes and Tavis Thompson, along with Spelman



College alumna Jaycee Holmes—were also listed on the Forbes 30 Under 30 List for 2023 in the Social Impact Section. “Siblings Ernest and Jaycee Holmes and Tavis Thompson created CodeHouse to ensure more students could access the pathways that lead to careers in STEM,” the article read. “To date, CodeHouse has secured more than \$3 million in funding from leading tech companies like PayPal, Google and Microsoft, and has hosted multiple Tech Exposure Days to educate high schoolers across the country about careers in tech.

“CodeHouse has also launched the CodeHouse Scholars Initiative, which provides Historically Black Colleges and Universities’ students majoring in STEM-related fields with \$20,000 in academic scholarships, networking opportunities, and technical training as they matriculate.”

For more about CodeHouse, [click here](#). ■



Bowie State Adds STEM Master’s Degree Programs



Bowie State University, in Bowie, Maryland, has added two graduate degree programs designed to offer students new opportunities for advanced STEM education.

The university is adding new master’s programs in the Department of Natural Sciences and the Department of Technology and Security to meet the rising demand for STEM workers. Applied Biotechnology & Molecular Biology (ABMB) launched this fall, and Internet of Things & Internet Technologies (IoT&IT), an online-degree program, went live last spring.

“The ABMB master’s program is designed to prepare students for Ph.D. programs in all major bioscience disciplines or research jobs in the biopharmaceutical industry,” university officials said. “The program covers multiple scientific disciplines including advanced biochemistry, molecular biology, cell biology, microbiology, immunology, biomechanics, as well as plant and animal biotechnology. Students are trained in recent advances in the field and on technical aspects through lab work.”

Bowie State’s IoT&IT master’s program focuses on technology and concepts related to devices that send and receive information via the internet. The program teaches students how to build and develop hardware and software, as well as implement solutions to security issues associated with IoT&IT devices. ■

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Elijah Truitt, MOREHOUSE '24

Computer Science Major Elijah Truitt Sees Google in His future

Many teens across the country this fall are college freshmen just beginning their college careers. But at just 19 years old, Elijah Truitt is in his senior year.

Truitt, a computer science major from Seattle, graduated from high school when he was just 17, and he earned an associate's degree in computer science from Tacoma Community College the same year. Since then, Truitt has served as a virtual tutor for the Google Tech Equity Collective, and completed two Google software engineering internships in New York City.

Now nearing the end of his Morehouse career, Truitt is matriculating full time and doing web development for CodeHouse, a nonprofit founded by Morehouse alumni that focuses on cultivating a strong pipeline between students of color and industry-leading tech companies.

Truitt talked about attending an HBCU and what he hopes to do in his STEM career.



What's it like being a STEM major?

"People forget what STEM means. These are the foremost disciplines in the world. The word 'scientist' is in there with 'computer scientist,' even though you're not dealing with chemicals. It's hard because throughout time there've been more advances in the STEM fields. So, the classes have to be harder to rise up to the level of current experts, and move beyond. The curriculum just gets harder."

Do you have advice for other STEM majors?

"My advice is always that they (students) need a reason to be doing computer science, to be doing this major. It doesn't matter what the reason is—if you want money or you're passionate about computer science or your mom told you to do this—but you need a reason. You miss out on parties and other social events because you need to be in your room studying. So, you need something you can tether yourself to. And then you remember why you're doing this, what is driving you."

What makes studying STEM courses easier?

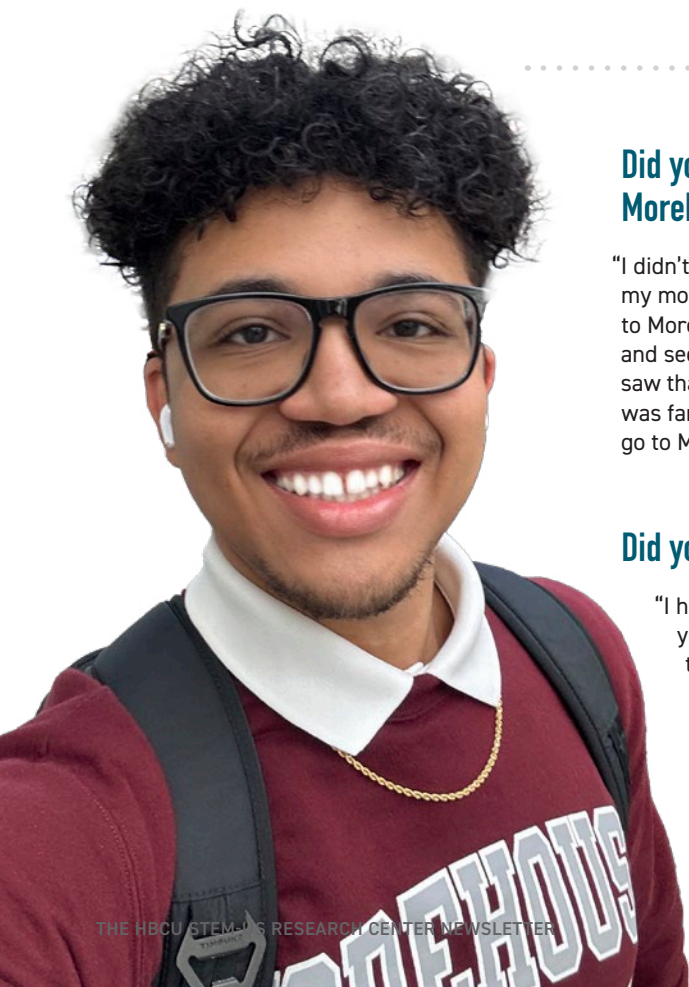
"Having a schedule. So many people don't have schedules. And studying. So many people do not study. They think if they're writing code then they're fine, but the more you study the less you have to study. I spend at least an hour a day studying so I won't have to spend six hours later reviewing the content. Do the content as it comes; don't wait to the last day."

Did you know much about Morehouse when you applied?

"I didn't know too much about HBCUs, but my mom wanted one of her sons to go to Morehouse, so I thought I'd just apply and see what happened. I looked and saw that Morehouse was in Atlanta and it was far from Seattle, so I thought, 'Let's go to Morehouse!'"

Did your siblings go to HBCUs?

"I have an older brother and younger sister. My brother went to Northwest University, near Seattle. He was a business major and now he's a Marine. My sister loves art, but she wants to be a neurosurgeon. Spelman is on her list; I've taken her around Spelman."



Elijah Truitt... cont'd

What's the advantage of attending an HBCU?

"My favorite part of Morehouse has been the connections. I have an unlimited number of connections. Ernest (Holmes), of CodeHouse, was my Google in Residence professor, teaching programming 1. He exposed me to internships that Google had, and I was able to get an internship there, and a return internship. Then, CodeHouse picked me to be on the team as the web designer."

How are STEM classes at Morehouse, now ranked No. 5 among top HBCUs?

"The computer science classes haven't been that difficult, and I did well in my coding classes. Here, the intro STEM classes are meant to welcome people who don't yet know if STEM is what they want to do; those classes take a softer approach to things. As you go up, the difficulties intensify quickly. But this is an area I'm passionate about, so that's helped me in classes."

Do you plan to go to graduate school in computer science?

"I know I will get a master's degree sometime, but I really enjoyed learning in the way I was learning at my internships at Google. It's more hands-on."

What do you hope to do in your career?

"I want to do something that inspires, that makes other people do something. I've been thinking lately about the education spectrum... be a professor? I've been a tutor for a lot of programs, and I've considered teaching, but I just don't know. If I get an offer with Google I'll come back to Morehouse as a Google teacher-in-residence. I'm passionate about helping people learn."

***Editor's Note:** The Google in Residence program, which partners with computer science departments at HBCUs and Hispanic Serving Institutions, supports greater diversity in the tech industry. Googlers—experienced software engineers—spend the fall semester on campuses, teaching introductory computer science classes. First-year students learn about basic coding and debugging, simple data structures, and how to work with large code bases. They also gain practical knowledge about what it's like to work in the tech industry and what development is like in a team.*

What are some things you've done as a Google intern?

"I worked on an internal tool within Google Search that serves a thousand-plus users daily. I also helped to create a new ETL pipeline to manage autocomplete suggestions for internal server types and construct server addresses using multiple RPC services and several Google infrastructures, streamlining the process of swapping local servers into the production Google Search stack."

You've lived on both sides of the country. Where will you go next?

"Atlanta is one of my top choices. Aside from that, my last two internships were both in New York City, so it's reasonable to expect that if I get a return (to Google) it would be in New York, San Francisco, or Atlanta. One thing I haven't gotten used to in the South is that sometimes it's so hot! And over the summer in New York, I paid around \$2,000 a month for rent—for a single room in a suite inside a college dorm. Here in Atlanta some of my friends have whole apartments for that. But at the end of the day, it's all about where God wants to send me."



Truitt earned an associate's degree from Tacoma Community College in Washington before entering Morehouse.

Elijah Truitt... cont'd

How do you think you've done at Morehouse?

"I think I'm doing a good job. Morehouse sets the expectations high when you get here, but I think I've been able to take those expectations and make them my own... and my own expectations are higher."

At this stage of your career, what are you particularly proud of?

"Now I'm in my senior year and people tell me, 'You inspired me to do an internship.' So, I'm able to give back. I'm really happy that I've had people tell me I've been a role model for them because I've had role models before me."

“

My favorite part of Morehouse has been the connections. I have an unlimited number of connections.”



What do you do to relax and have fun?

"I hang out with friends, and I play with my Rubik's Cubes. I can solve one in about 11 seconds. I've been in some competitions back in Washington, and I'm in the top 14,000 in the world. It's fun! And it helps with visual and logic reasoning. Outside of school, I'm also interested in computers. I work on my own projects, and I play my video games."

Elijah Truitt is a member of the National Society of Black Engineers, CodeHouse, and the Google Developer Student Club. He is also a competitive Speedcuber with the World Cube Association. ■

CENTER for JOURNALISM & DEMOCRACY

Howard University's Center for Journalism & Democracy has won a \$4-million award over three years from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) to establish innovative academic and applied research programs designed to advance health equity journalism at HBCUs.

Health equity, according to the CDC, is the state in which everyone has a fair and just opportunity to attain their highest level of health. The RWJF Investigative Journalism for Health Equity Project will serve as an anchor for programming that fosters teaching, research, and reporting on the root causes of racial health disparities in the United States.

The Center for Journalism & Democracy strives to build a pipeline of pro-democracy journalists trained in investigative and data reporting. Its stated mission is to strengthen investigative journalism on HBCU campuses and build newsroom pipelines throughout the country.

Howard Center Wins \$4 Million for Journalism Program



Nikole Hannah-Jones

"Health disparities continue to characterize Americans' health, life chances, and life expectancy," said Nikole Hannah-Jones, the Knight Chair in

Race and Journalism at Howard's Cathy Hughes School of Communications.

"Health equity is crucial to a well-functioning democratic society, as structural health inequality undermines Black Americans' ability to participate fully in the promises of our democracy.

"The severe and deadly inequities in health outcomes are created through public and private policy that our student journalists can expose through investigative reporting."

The RWJF Investigative Journalism for Health Equity Project will provide general, unrestricted operating support to the center. Additionally, the grant will fund the multiple new programmatic activities

Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

at Howard University and the center's HBCU partners.

New programs include the creation of a visiting professorship in health-focused investigative journalism and a multi-year investigative project with an HBCU partner institution on the intersection of reparations and health. Grant funding will also be used to create a new annual data analytics summer institute for emerging and practicing journalists. ■

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



ABOUT STEM-US WEBINARS

Since September 2018, the HBCU 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., interim provost and vice president of academic affairs 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." Mark Melton is available to provide group webinars as well as individual proposal and writing guidance/sessions.

Webinar topics recommended by NSF and now being considered:

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

Submit Webinar Topics

Interested in new STEM webinars?



Contact:
Mark A. Melton, Ph.D.
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 Saint Augustine's University
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NEWS YOU CAN USE

FACULTY/STAFF BRIEFS



Howard Dean Gina S. Brown Honored with National Medal



The Arnold P. Gold Foundation honored Gina S. Brown, dean of the Howard University College of Nursing and Allied Sciences, on June 20 with the **2023 National Humanism in Medicine**

Medal. Brown was recognized at a New York gala for her leadership and achievements in healthcare and government, and for her positive impact on society.

Gold Foundation officials described Brown as a transformational nursing leader and a global champion of health equity and social justice. She has been the nursing and allied health sciences dean at Howard since 2015.

"I am extremely honored that my work is being recognized with such a prestigious award," Brown said. "This award serves as motivation to continue the work that I am doing and help the next generation of leaders in the field of medicine and nursing."

Brown was an inaugural dean and assistant vice president of what is now Washington Adventist University. Her work is well-regarded for promoting equity, inclusiveness, and diversity, and she has travelled across five continents as a spokesperson for social justice, health equality, and religious liberty.

The June gala brought together leaders in medical and nursing education, hospitals, and other health systems to recognize healthcare leaders for their work in improving the healthcare system.



FAMU's Lambert Kanga is Principal Investigator on Minority Leaders Grant



Lambert H.B. Kanga, Ph.D., director of the Center for Biological Control at Florida A&M University, is the principal investigator on a \$10-million grant, "Developing the Next

Generation of Minority Leaders in Pest Management for Food and Agriculture in a Changing Climate."

Kanga and his team will use their funding to address the shortage of minorities in the pest management professions. This multifaceted project will include experiential learning, leadership, and entrepreneurship to train secondary school and college students.

The project is described as being concerned with "the development of future leaders in entomological studies equipped with much-needed skills to cope with the challenges of climate change, and foster interest and excitement in pest management through real world applications and interactive and digital learning tools."



Nadir Yilmaz Elected Fellow Member of American Society for Engineering Education



Nadir Yilmaz, Ph.D., Howard University mechanical engineering professor and department chair, has been elevated to Fellow member of the American Society for Engineering

Education (ASEE). Fellow membership is an honor granted only through nomination by another ASEE Fellow or an active ASEE member. Some 12,000 members are now across the country, and only a small number are selected annually as ASEE Fellows.

"It is a distinct honor to join the Academy of ASEE Fellows, recognizing my passion for promoting excellence in engineering education, scholarship and service to the society," said Yilmaz. "This recognition strengthens my commitment not only to educate the next generation of engineers but also to train and mentor future Fellows for the advancement of engineering education."



Yilmaz is an award-winning engineering educator, nationally recognized professional engineer, leading scholar, and an exemplary leader in the engineering community with a dedication to empowering underrepresented minorities in STEM. His contributions to engineering education and outstanding teaching have been recognized by ASEE, as well as by the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, the National Society of Professional Engineers, and SAE International. In 2013, Yilmaz was the recipient of the ASEE Gulf-Southwest Outstanding Teaching Award, which focuses on outstanding classroom performance, the 2013 New Mexico Tech University Distinguished Teaching Award, and SAE International Faculty Advisor Awards.

"As the first ASEE member at Howard University to receive this distinction, Dr. Yilmaz's elevation to Fellow adds to the academic reputation of Howard University's Department of Mechanical Engineering and College of Engineering and Architecture," said John M.M. Anderson, Ph.D., dean of the Howard University College of Engineering and Architecture.

NEWS YOU CAN USE FACULTY/STAFF BRIEFS... cont'd



SAINT AUGUSTINE'S
UNIVERSITY
Transform. Excel. Lead.

St. Augustine's M. Iyailu Moses Presents at Faculty Institute



Professor M. Iyailu Moses, Ed.D., of Saint Augustine's University was a round table presenter at the summer North Carolina Independent Colleges and Universities Science

of Reading Summer Faculty Institute held at High Point University. The institute brought together NCICU-member faculty who spent the past year engaging in personal acquisition of Science of Reading content and incorporating this learning approach into their curricula.

Science of Reading offers a structured approach to literacy instruction based on scientific study of the brain describing where and how learning takes place.

Moses shared the rigorous curriculum review and course redesign of several courses within the elementary education program in response to the State Board of Education's mandate that Science of Reading theory and practice be incorporated into all educator preparation programs provided by higher education institutions in North Carolina.

Saint Augustine's Announces Provost, VP of Academic Affairs



Saint Augustine's University (SAU) has named Ricardo Phipps, Ph.D., as provost and vice president for academic affairs.

Phipps, former dean of Stevenson University's School of Humanities and Social Sciences, holds a bachelor's degree in mathematics and

history from Rice University, a master's degree in divinity/ministry from Notre Dame Seminary, a master's degree in guidance and counseling from Jackson State University, and a doctorate in counselor education and supervision from the University of Mississippi.

"Dr. Phipps is widely respected in his field and brings a wealth of academic and real-world experience to the university," said SAU President Dr. Christine Johnson McPhail.

Phipps spearheaded the development of a proposal for a new master's program in counseling at Stevenson. His research interests include intergenerational transmission of trauma, immigrant trauma, integration of spirituality and religion in counseling, and stigma reduction.

"I am honored to be welcomed into the SAU family," Phipps said. "I am excited about continuing to learn about the institution's rich history of excellence and empowerment. We will build upon this foundation to maintain strong momentum in fostering students ready to take on the 21st-century workforce and are prepared to be transformational leaders and advocate for justice in the global community."



HOWARD
UNIVERSITY

Stacey Abrams Appointed Inaugural Chair at Howard



Two-time Georgia gubernatorial candidate, political leader, and Spelman College alumna Stacey Abrams has been appointed the inaugural Ronald W. Walters Endowed

Chair for Race and Black Politics at Howard University.

Abrams will work across multiple academic departments, focusing on real-world solutions to problems facing Black people and other vulnerable groups. She will, particularly, foster interdisciplinary collaborations on critical issues of race and Black politics, inspire research, and encourage broad discussions of scholarship for real-world solutions to complex societal problems that adversely affect African diasporic communities and other vulnerable populations. She will also lead a Ronald W. Walters Speakers Series with invited guests on a range of topics representing diverse perspectives.

Abrams began her political career in the Georgia General Assembly in 2007, serving as a state representative. She was the minority leader of the Georgia House of Representatives from 2011 to 2017—the first woman to lead either party in the Georgia General Assembly—and the first African American to lead in the House of Representatives. In 2018, Abrams made history by becoming the first African American woman to win a major party nomination for governor in the United States as the Democratic nominee in Georgia.

Ronald W. Walters, Ph.D., was an internationally renowned scholar, activist, and expert on issues affecting the African diaspora until his death in 2010. The endowed chair was created in his name to continue his legacy of expanding the university's capacity as a leader in emerging scholarship in Black politics, Howard officials said.

For more information about Howard's Ronald W. Walters Leadership and Public Policy Center, click [here](#).



NEWS YOU CAN USE

FACULTY/STAFF BRIEFS... cont'd



FAMU's Harriett A. Paul is Co-PI on \$10-million Grant



Harriett A. Paul, Florida A&M's director of International Agriculture Programs and the Center for International Agricultural Trade Development Research and Training

(CIATDRT), is the Co-PI on the \$10-million grant "Generating and Sustaining the Next Generation of the Food, Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Human Sciences Workforce Through International Experiential Learning, Outreach and Engagement."

FAMU's CIATDRT will receive \$2.2 million to help develop and sustain a global workforce through new student scholarships, global experiential learning, and an expanded global network of strategic partners.

"This is an exceptional opportunity for our 1890 Historically Black Land-Grant System to elevate our student preparation to a new level of excellence and truly equip them with career ready skills at the global level," said Paul. ■

PUBLICATIONS & PRESENTATIONS

Members of the HBCU STEM Undergraduate Success Research Center

PEER REVIEWED MANUSCRIPT (Submitted)

Chambers, B., Mason, R., Muldrow, L., Thomas, A. (2022-09-06). Changing the Game: Examine the Development and Effect of an Online STEM Automated Research Simulation Case Study. *Computing Conference*.

Chambers, B., Neely, A., Lowe, J., Broadway, R. (2022-06-15). Resilience in times of a double catastrophe: Unpacking the benefits of an intervention course for Freshman STEM majors during times of uncertainty. *Journal of Negro Education*.

Talley, C., Mason, R., Melton, M., Bryan, D. (2023-01-30). Telling the Whole Story: The HBCU STEM Undergraduate Success Research Center Informs Education Research. *Journal of Policy Analysis and Research*.

Dickens, D., Jackson, D., Patrick, A., Younge, S., Shearin, S., Zheng, L., Malik, M., Talley, J., Stewart, L. (2023-01-04). Faculty perceptions of Black students' experiences in stem at HBCUs. *Journal for Multicultural Education*.

PEER REVIEWED MANUSCRIPT (Published)

Chambers, B. (2022). Black Stem Mentors Matter: A Qualitative Case Study Examining The Contextual Factors Of Mentoring Relationships In Stem At A Private Hbcu That Contribute To African American Student Persistence Within Stem Majors. *Georgia Education Research Association Conference*, 4, 25.

BOOK CHAPTER (Submitted)

Mason, R. (2022-09-01). In Grahe, J., Ceynar, M, & Mason. R.S. (Eds.), *Inez Beverly Prosser: An Exemplary Psychologist, Pioneer, and Psychometrician*. Taylor&Francis.

BOOK CHAPTER (Published)

Zelaya, A., Blumer, L., Beck, C. (2022). In Pelaez, N.J., S.M. Gardner, and T.R. Anderson (Eds.), *Comparison of published assessments of biological experimentation as mapped to the ACE-Bio competence areas* (pp. 283-301). Springer Nature.

PRESENTATION SUBMITTED

(Conference, Poster, Webinar, etc.)

Byrd, C., Mason, R., Abraham, A., Ruschak, B. (n.d.). *Demystifying faculty diversity: using academic pipeline programs to overcome systemic barriers to recruitment and retention*, Annual Meeting of the National Association of Diversity Officers in Higher Education.

Pabon, D. (n.d.). *Closing the gap: examining the relationship between participation in a virtual research simulation case study and african american stem students' success in the freshman year at a hbcu*, Emerging Researchers National Conference.

Byrd, C., Mason, R., Brown, D., Pierre, D., Perino, T. (n.d.). *Demystifying faculty diversity: using academic pipeline programs to overcome systemic barriers to recruitment and retention*, McKnight Doctoral Annual Fellows & MidYear Meeting.

Talley, C., Mason, R. (n.d.). *The hidden curriculum and second curriculum: bringing what you do in your office hours to your classroom teaching*, 1st Annual Psi Beta Teaching Conference.

Dickens, D., Jackson, D. (n.d.). *Uncovering historically black college and university faculty perceptions of black students' experiences in stem*, AERA Conference.

Byrd, C., Mason, R. (n.d.). *Pre-conference faculty & exhibitor plenary workshop*, SREB Institute on Teaching and Mentoring.

Neely, A., Chambers, B. (n.d.). *Increasing participation in stem through growth mindset principles: an examination of black undergraduate stem engagement*, AERA: American Educational Researcher's Association.

PRESENTATION COMPLETED

(Conference, Poster, Webinar, etc.)

Talley, C. (2022-05-20). *The role of hbcu in promoting stem education* [Influence of Yvonne (YY) Clark], Lost Women of Science., Nora Mathison.

Talley, C. (2022-04-15). *Featured on the nsf includes national network website as part of a new monthly series on msi faculty of color* [Featured Faculty], NSF INCLUDES WEBSITE. Simone B. Soso, Ph.D.

Chambers, B. (2022-10-14). *#blackstemmentorsmatter: a qualitative case study examining the contextual factors of mentoring relationships in stem at a private hbcu that contribute to african american student persistence within stem majors* [Post-Secondary Education], Georgia Education Researchers Association.

Byrd, C., Mason, R., Garcia-Collart, T., Pierre, D., Brown, D. (2023-02-11). *Demystifying faculty diversity: using academic pipeline programs to overcome systemic barriers to recruitment and retention*, McKnight Doctoral Annual Fellows & Mid-Year Meeting, Tampa, FL.

Talley, C., Mason, R. (2022-12-02). *The hidden curriculum and second curriculum: bringing what you do in your office hours to your classroom teaching*, Inaugural Psi Beta Annual Symposium, virtual.

Byrd, C., Mason, R. (2022-10-28). *Leveraging academic pipeline programs to support your transition to becoming faculty*, Southern Regional Education Board Institute for Teaching and Mentoring, Atlanta, GA.

Mason, R., Talley, C. (2022-08-05). *Examining the training of psychologists through an ecological lens*, Invited symposium for the Committee on Associate and Baccalaureate Education at the Annual meeting of the American Psychological Association. Minneapolis, MN.

Askew, K., Mason, R., Beverly, M. (2022-08-12). *Leveraging the agep experience*, Preparing Future Faculty Conference, Washington, D.C.

Neely, A., Lamb, S., Chambers, B., McKlin, T., Lee Brown, T. (2022-11-11). *Decolonizing evaluation practices: taking an asset-based approach to evaluating an hbcu transdisciplinary research collaborative*, American Evaluators Association.

Dickens, D., Jackson, D. (2023-02-08). *Faculty's perceptions of student success in stem at hbcu*, HBCU-UP & Crest PI Meeting.

OTHER MEDIA COMPLETED

(Interview, Podcasts, etc.)

Adrian Neely (2023-03-22). AEA365. <https://aea365.org/blog/university-based-centers-tig-week-using-an-assetbased-approach-for-understanding-and-evaluating-hbcus-by-adrian-neely/>

Cheryl Talley, Victoria Davis, Meya Mongkuo (2023-01-12). Futurum Careers. <https://futurumcareers.com/whatskills-do-you-need-to-succeed-in-school>

NEWS YOU CAN USE

GENERAL BRIEFS



HBCU Students Join Amgen BioTech Fellowship Program

HBCU 20x20, a national nonprofit connecting HBCU and Black communities to career resources, recently partnered with Amgen—one of the world's leading biotechnology companies—to host the second cohort of the Amgen Operations Biotech Fellowship program. For 12 weeks, fellows participate in professional development programming, get paired with Amgen professionals for mentorship, complete a capstone project, and interview for internship and full-time opportunities.



"As a leading global biotechnology company deeply rooted in science, we believe that an environment of inclusion fosters innovation, which helps drive our ability to serve patients," said Samantha Taylor, Amgen director of human resources. "We are honored to continue to support this fellowship to support the next generation of innovators and leaders."

HBCU BioTech Fellows are HBCU juniors, seniors, or recent university graduates who are passionate about the BioTech field. The 2023 fellows for 2023 attend nine HBCUs, major in STEM subjects such as biology, computer science, and agribusiness, and were selected out of more than 75 applicants. They are:

- **Destinie James**, Electrical Engineering Major, *Tuskegee University*
- **Jacoby Wilkerson**, Supply Chain Management Major, *Howard University*

- **Khadim Mbacke**, Physics Major, *Michigan State University*
- **Lamont Harrison**, Computer Information Systems, *Bethune-Cookman University*
- **Langston Locke**, Chemical Engineering Major, *Howard University*
- **Lotus Khanal**, Mechanical Engineering Major, *Howard University*
- **Michaela Corley**, Biology Major, *Miles College*
- **Nsikakabasi Ekong**, Biology Major, *Howard University*
- **Onyinyechi Agbo**, Biochemistry and Molecular Biology Major, *Fisk University*
- **Peter Musenge**, Biology and Engineering Mathematics Major, *Saint Augustine's University*
- **Rhonda Prince**, Computer Information Systems Major, *Grambling State University*
- **Samaya Brooks**, Agribusiness Major, *North Carolina Agricultural & Technical State University*
- **Yaman Siwakoti**, Mechanical Engineering Major, *Howard University*
- **Yvette Foby**, Biochemistry and Molecular Biology Major, *Fisk University*

FAMU Alum G. Scott Uzzell '88 Named NIKE VP



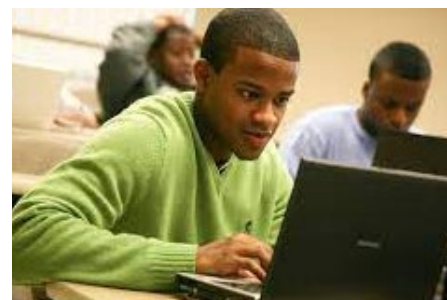
Florida A&M University (FAMU) alumnus G. Scott Uzzell has been named vice president/general manager of Nike of North America.

Uzzell, a FAMU School of Business and Industry graduate, served as CEO and president of Nike's Converse division for the past several years and has been recognized as a marketing and sales savant for companies like Procter & Gamble, Nabisco, and Coca-Cola. At Converse, Uzzell "led all aspects of the business, globally and oversaw the company's successful return to the basketball category across product, marketplace, and sponsorships, after a 10-year hiatus from the sport," Nike said in a company release.

A business graduate of FAMU, Uzzell received his MBA from the University of Chicago.



Sage Helps Expand Morehouse Software Engineering Program



Sage, a leader in accounting, financial, HR, and payroll technology for small- and medium-sized businesses, has announced a new partnership with Morehouse College. The collaboration expands Morehouse's software engineering program, providing students of color with more opportunities to use and study emerging technologies and learn firsthand about advancements in the tech ecosystem that impact businesses and produce new career paths.

The goal of the partnership is to develop a more diverse technology industry talent pool that provides underrepresented communities with increased access to training and lucrative careers.

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

Sage experts are also helping to design and teach a series of new software engineering courses at Morehouse, as well as mentor and employ students as interns. In addition, Sage will partner with the Morehouse-based Center for Broadening Participation in Computing, an academic and industry collaborative dedicated to making the tech ecosystem a more just, innovative, and equitable space.

The program is being supported by an \$80,000 investment from Sage.

White House HBCU Scholars Named



HBCU Scholars for 2023 comprise largest cohort since inception of the recognition program.

The White House Initiative on Advancing Educational Equity, Excellence, and Economic Opportunity through Historically Black Colleges and Universities has announced its ninth cohort of HBCU Scholars. The program this year

recognizes 102 undergraduate, graduate, and professional students from 29 different states and countries for their accomplishments in academics, leadership, civic engagement, and more.

The 2023 HBCU scholars, selected from a competitive pool of more than 300 applicants, comprise the largest cohort since the inception of the recognition program in 2014. The HBCU participation rate is now at more than 70 percent.



Miguel Cardona

HBCU Scholars are expected to serve as ambassadors of the White House Initiative on HBCUs, the U.S. Department of Education, and their respective colleges and universities.

Participants are encouraged to lift their communities, unite others around student success, work to strengthen democracy, and grow the U.S. economy. HBCU Scholars are offered professional and personal development, and cross-university networking opportunities.

"Our 2023 HBCU Scholars are talented students who embody the culture of excellence and inclusion championed by our nation's Historically Black Colleges and Universities," said U.S. Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona. "On behalf of the U.S. Department of Education and everyone across the Biden-Harris Administration, I congratulate each of our 2023 HBCU scholars on this prestigious recognition and thank them for their commitment to serving their communities."

For more on the 2023 HBCU Scholars, including scholars' names, [click here](#). ■

HBCU STEM Undergraduate Success Research Center

PROJECT TEAM MEMBERS



Lawrence Blumer, Ph.D.
Professor of Biology
Morehouse College



Derrick M. Bryan, Ph.D.
Associate Professor of Sociology/Division Chair
Morehouse College



Brittany Chambers, Ed.D.
Adjunct Faculty, Morehouse College Postdoctoral Researcher
Morehouse College



Danielle Dickens, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor of Psychology
Spelman College



Cheryl Talley, Ph.D.
Associate Professor of Neuroscience
Virginia State University



Shondricka N. Lamb, M.S.
Associate Director
STEM-US Research Center
Morehouse College



Alicia P. Thomas, M.S.
Technical Director
STEM-US Research Center
Morehouse College

MOREHOUSE | SPELMAN | VIRGINIA STATE



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.