

NSPAA Newsletter

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Mississippi to Host 2006 Annual Conference

The National Sponsored Programs Administrators Alliance (NSPAA) of HBCUs will convene its Twelfth Annual Conference and Advance Workshop Series in Jackson, Mississippi on June 7-10, 2006. This year's conference theme is, "*Enhancing and Expanding the Educational Enterprise Through Research and Sponsored Programs*". Mississippi's HBCUs, Alcorn State University, Jackson State University, Mississippi Valley State University, Tougaloo College and Rust College, are hosting the conference.



The three day conference and one day pre-conference series will include agency updates by the Department of Housing and Urban Development, the Department of Defense, the National Aeronautical and Space Administration, the National Science Foundation, the National Institutes of Health, the Department of Transportation, the Environmental Protection Agency, and the Department of Commerce. The conference topics will include: e-Government, collaboration and partnership development, regulatory and compliance issues, technology transfer, and a successful sponsored programs operation.

The Pre-Conference Workshop Series will focus on grant writing, contract development, technology transfer, and building research and sponsored program enterprises.

The conference will be held at the Jackson Marriott Downtown (601/969-5100) where a block of rooms are available at the rate of \$99.00 per person until May 22, 2006.

National Sponsored Programs Administrators Alliance of Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Inc. Hosts NSF Conference

The National Sponsored Programs Administrators Alliance (NSPAA) of Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Inc. hosted a National Science Foundation (NSF) funded conference focusing on the needs of sponsored projects administrators at HBCUs in Atlanta in March. The conference highlighted the inner workings of NSF, explained the proposal preparation process, provided an overview of award management and compliance issues, and answered pressing questions from the HBCU sponsored research community.

Senior NSF personnel, program officers and administrators presented an overview of NSF; the NSF proposal and preparation process; components of a successful proposal, award management and compliance issues, and FastLane and Grants.gov updates.

Over 160 research and sponsored program administrators from the HBCU community attended the event. The conference was presented by NSPAA as a response to the professional development needs of its members as well as the sponsored research community in general. The conference was the latest of an ongoing series of initiatives by NSPAA to enhance competitiveness of researchers and administrative staff at HBCUs.

Dr. John E. Maupin Returns to Morehouse School of Medicine (MSM) to lead the Atlanta Institution

The Board of Trustees of the Morehouse School of Medicine has appointed Dr. John E. Maupin, Jr., D. D. S., as its next president. MSM Board Chair, Anthony Welters, J. D., in announcing the selection of Dr. Maupin as the next president stated, "The Board is delighted to have a person as skilled and experienced as John Maupin to lead the Morehouse School of Medicine." Dr. Maupin returned to MSM after 12 years as president of Meharry Medical College, where he led with distinction.

Dr. Maupin was the first alumnus and second dentist to lead Meharry. He has been the president and chief executive officer of Meharry Medical College since 1994. Meharry is the nation's largest private, historically black college devoted exclusively to health professions education and training in the fields of medicine, dentistry, biomedical research and public health. Prior to joining Meharry, Dr. Maupin held the position of executive vice president of the Morehouse School of Medicine.

From 1987 to 1989, before joining MSM, he was the chief executive officer of Southside Healthcare, Inc. an Atlanta-based, federally qualified community health center. John Maupin also served as Deputy Commissioner of Health, Baltimore City Health Department, Baltimore, Maryland, and Dental Director, West Baltimore Community Health Center, Baltimore, Maryland.

Dr. Maupin will assume his duties as president of Morehouse School of Medicine on July 1, 2006. When he begins his stewardship of MSM, Dr. Maupin will follow former U.S. Surgeon General David Satcher, M.D., Ph.D., who took over in December 2004 and who had agreed to serve as the school's interim president until the next permanent president was identified.

Dr. Satcher said, "As Interim President of the Morehouse School of Medicine, I have enjoyed working with the deeply dedicated board, faculty, staff, alumni and students and have appreciated the opportunity to serve. I have especially enjoyed working with the community. We look forward to the leadership of Dr. Maupin and the wealth of experience and commitment he brings to the presidency."

Three HBCU's Among Top Doctoral Research Universities

North Carolina A&T State University, Howard University, and Jackson State University are among top doctorate-granting universities in the "high research activity" category, according

to a new data and classification system introduced by the Carnegie Foundation recently and released in March, 2006 in The Chronicle of Higher Education.

Among factors used in creating the categories were the conferral of at least 20 doctorates in 2003-04; research and development expenditures in science and engineering fields; expenditures in non-science and engineering fields; science and engineering staff; and doctoral conferrals in humanities fields, social science fields, science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

The new rating places Jackson State, Howard University, and NCA&T in the same category leading historically black universities in research activity.

The Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching overhauled its classifications to include three subcategories of doctorate-granting institutions instead of two. The three groups were determined using a complex plotting exercise where each institution's research activity was compared from a common reference point.

Top categories in the previous classifications were "Doctoral Extensive" and "Doctoral Intensive." The three new categories are "Research Universities (very high activity)," "Research Universities (high activity)," and "Doctoral/Research Universities," which generally includes those institutions once considered doctoral intensive.

Jackson State and NCA&T described previously as "doctoral intensive," now are under the classification of "Research Universities (high research activity)". Howard was previously in the "doctoral extensive" designation.

JSU Among Major Research Universities to Receive NIH SEPA Award

Jackson State University is among nine universities to receive the National Institutes of Health's (NIH) Science Education Partnership Awards Program (SEPA). \$1 million is awarded to JSU to encourage young scientists to pursue careers addressing health disparities which include some of Mississippi's biggest health problems: cardiovascular disease, obesity, diabetes and HIV/AIDS. More Mississippians die each year from cardiovascular disease than from traffic injuries, cancer, suicides, and AIDS combined. The program will prepare high school students for academic study and professional careers in the biomedical fields. Dr. James Perkins, Director of Research for the JSU College of Science, Engineering and Technology, is Principle Investigator (PI) for the NIH SEPA grant.

Others funded include:

- » The Exploratorium San Francisco, CA

- » Great Lakes Science Center, Cleveland, OH
- » Harvard University Medical School, Cambridge, MA
- » Oregon Health and Science University, Portland, OR
- » University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey, Newark, NJ
- » University of Texas-Pan American, Edinburg, TX
- » University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, Milwaukee, WI and
- » Yale University, New Haven, CT

The grant will provide resources to design and develop the following: a multimedia program which features biomedical scientists who do research in health disparities areas; complimentary materials for classroom instruction; paid summer research training experiences for High School honor students; and a service-learning program to provide practical hands-on experiences for students in organizations working in health disparities areas.

Barbara M. Alving, Acting Director of National Center for Research Resources (NCRR), notes that” by giving students the chance to participate in hands-on, inquiry-based research projects, we hope to demystify science and make it more accessible. Through our Science Education Partnership Awards program, we not only stimulate public interest in health issues, we also encourage young people to pursue careers in science.”

Tuskegee, Xavier, and Jackson State Partner with the RAND Corporation and Other Universities to Create a Policy Institute for Hurricane-Ravaged States

The RAND Corporation and seven universities have partnered to create the RAND Gulf States Policy Institute designed to develop a long-term vision and a strategy to help build a better future for Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama in the wake of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

The universities that make up the RAND Gulf States Policy Institute are:

- » Jackson State University and the University of Southern Mississippi in that state.
- » Tulane University, the University of New Orleans and Xavier University in Louisiana.
- » Tuskegee University and the University of South Alabama in that state.

The primary purpose of the Institute is to lead strategic policy analysis across a broad spectrum of redevelopment and long-term issues with the goal of developing strong links to the represented citizenry in the region. The Institute will also extend capacity in the region to conduct strategic and data-driven policy analysis. The complementary abilities of the participating institutions will drive the strength of the Institute.

This is the first organization of its kind in the region to conduct a full spectrum of policy research on pressing challenges facing the three states, including problems that existed before the hurricanes struck. The Institute will provide evidence-based policy guidance to speed regional recovery and provide a long-term policy roadmap for redevelopment on issues such as:

- » The costs and benefits of different levels of flood control, hurricane protection and wetlands restoration.
- » Options for financing public education in the three states.
- » Ways to build an adequate supply of durable and affordable housing in the region.
- » Actions to improve the performance of public safety agencies during hurricanes and catastrophic incidents.

The RAND Corporation is a nonprofit research organization that has used objective research and analysis to seek solutions to some of the world’s most challenging problems for nearly 60 years. It is based in Santa Monica, Calif., and has offices in the Washington, D.C. area and Pittsburgh, along with Europe and Qatar.

Morgan State—Faculty Release Time: A Potent Research Incentive

Most faculty at NSPAA institutions tend to be overwhelmed with heavy teaching load, student advising and professional service responsibilities. Not surprisingly, lack of time for research development, proposal preparation and actual conduct of research is often cited as a real barrier to active participation in research, whether funded or unfunded. For a large proportion of faculty in these institutions, a full time teaching load per semester is twelve (12) credits, sometimes more. When one adds on the hours for advising and service, little or no time is left for research; and yet effective teaching needs to be informed by active research to create new knowledge.

There is little doubt, therefore, that release time can serve as a potent incentive for increasing faculty involvement in research. This is time granted to faculty, away from teaching responsibilities, to be dedicated for research and other scholarly activities. My informal survey of faculty colleagues shows overwhelming support for such incentive. A release time policy is therefore necessary in all of our institutions to clearly establish the parameters for granting such release.

At Morgan State University, faculty release time is bought through sponsored research grant or contract, or granted through some understanding from the Office of the Provost or from the department chair and dean. The funds are to support the cost of hiring a replacement adjunct instructor to cover the course or other responsibilities of the released faculty. Generally, release time may be granted for the following research related activities:

continued

- » Conduct of funded research
- » Major proposal writing (with the expectation that, if successful, it would result in funded release time and F&A cost)

Other activities include:

- » Writing technical or peer reviewed papers
- » Graduate students supervision (Master's or Doctoral students)
- » Other scholarly activities (with approval from Dean and Provost)

For Morgan, the goal is to strengthen the research enterprise at the University by granting researchers uninterrupted time to complete research, publications, grant applications or related scholarly endeavors, in order to maintain its current Carnegie Classification as a Doctoral, professional dominant institution. Consequently, the institutional policy requires that release time must produce deliverables, regardless of the source of funding, whether extramural or intramural.

Photos taken during the NSF Conference for Sponsored Program Administrators Technical Assistance Workshop in Atlanta (3/20-21/06)



**A publication of the National Sponsored Programs
Administrators Alliance of Historically
Black Colleges and Universities, Incorporated
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