

The Newsletter of the National
Sponsored Programs
Administrators Alliance of
Historically Black Colleges and
Universities, Inc.

Spring 2015 - Volume IX, Issue 1

NSPAA's *Voice*



Featured:

- ♦ NSPAA History, Mission, & Membership
- ♦ Technical Assistance Workshop Series, June 2-5, 2015 (Arlington, VA)
- ♦ HBCU Funding Spotlights

NSPAA's Voice

The Newsletter of the National Sponsored
Programs Administrators Alliance of
Historically Black Colleges and Universities,
Inc.

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NSPAA's President



Mr. Elbert R. Malone, President of NSPAA, is the Associate Provost for Sponsored Programs at South Carolina State University. He leads the organization and continues its commitment of sharing information among members that encourages best practices, upcoming research initiatives, along with professional development opportunities. Mr. Malone is very enthusiastic about the 2015 Technical Assistance Workshop being a success. At this conference, members along with government agencies and other stakeholders will be invited to present and share their ideas that will allow HBCUs to remain competitive among peers in the sponsored program arena. Government agencies will present the most current information on funding and research opportunities as well as technical assistance for preparing grant applications.

The National Sponsored Programs Administrators Alliance (NSPAA) of HBCUs, Incorporated



NSPAA was established in December 1993 with the mission to aid Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) in the efficiency and effectiveness of sponsored program administration. The organization provides technical assistance workshops, conferences, training and service activities, which have formed a collaborative sponsored research community of HBCUs that address and share particular needs facing HBCUs. A main goal of NSPAA is to gain visibility, and broaden its membership base within the HBCU sponsored research community. NSPAA-HBCU's Inc. was co-founded by Mr. Marvin H. Watkins of North Carolina A&T State University and Dr. Franklin D. Hamilton of Florida A&M University.

NSPAA is an enthusiastic organization, which recognizes the vital role that research administrators play in helping their schools to secure external funding. The network of HBCUs administrators developed by NSPAA has gone a long way towards promoting the specialized interests of HBCUs and furthering communication among these institutions. As the NSPAA organization grows, so does its association with federal offices and private/non-governmental entities. This interaction has proved to be essential in empowering HBCUs to remain competitive in the research arena and to stay abreast of current developments in sponsored research.

Benefits of Membership

NSPAA provides assistance and services to the membership funding agencies and others by way of its Annual Conferences, Advance Workshop Series, Technical Help Seminars, Networking Opportunities and Publications. The Alliance frequently collaborated on opportunities available to HBCUs and other Minority Serving Institutions. The Departments of Defense, the Department of Energy and the White House Initiative on Historically Black Colleges and Universities, among others, often support training seminars, which help members earn professional certification as Certified Research Administrators through the Research Administrator Certification Council.



TRAINING

Learn about available funding, get ideas for program development and enhance your knowledge of pre- and post-award functions, including compliance.



RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

Gain valuable insight on positioning your institution to win and realize maximum benefits and extramural funding from public and private sources.




NETWORKING

Interact with federal agencies and private/non-governmental entities to promote your program initiatives, and share lessons learned with faculty and staff of other institutions.

NSPAA Members Are....



- ♦ Research and Sponsored Programs Administrators
- ♦ Federal Grant & Contract Administrators
- ♦ Research Faculty
- ♦ Funders
- ♦ Training Consultants
- ♦ Government Officials
- ♦ Compliance Officers

A large, multi-story hotel building with a modern design, featuring a prominent corner tower and a blue sky background.

20th Annual NSPAA Technical Assistance Workshop Series

June 2-5, 2015
Sheraton Pentagon City Hotel
900 South Orme St, Arlington, VA 22204
703.521.1900

RESERVE YOUR ROOM NOW!!!!!!!!!!



1-800-325-3535
Hotel Booking Code:
NSPAA

***Hotel Reservation
extended until May 17th!***



Workshop Theme:

Building Partnerships and Consortia: The Road to Success in Sponsored Programs and Research Enterprise”

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- ♦ OMB Uniform Guidance
 - ♦ The Sponsored Programs/Research Enterprise
 - ♦ Building Partnerships/Collaborations/Consortia
 - ♦ MSI STEM Research and Development Consortium
 - ♦ Strengthening Your Grants/Contracts Management Systems
 - ♦ Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation
 - ♦ Funding Opportunities: Grants and Contracts
 - ♦ Funding Opportunities with Federal Agencies:
 - ♦ Department of Education
 - ♦ Department of Energy
 - ♦ Department of Defense
 - ♦ Department of Navy
 - ♦ Department of Air force
 - ♦ Department of Interior
 - ♦ National Institute of Health
 - ♦ National Science Foundation
 - ♦ National Aeronautics and Space Administration
 - ♦ National Nuclear Security Administration
 - ♦ National Institute of Standard and Technology



**Register
TODAY!**

<http://www.nspaa.com>

DSU Receives \$300,000 Grant from InterDigital Inc.



Delaware State University received a \$300,000 grant to its College of Mathematics, Natural Sciences and Technology (CMNST) from InterDigital, Inc., a Wilmington-based wireless technology solutions company. DSU President Harry L. Williams made the announcement of the new public-private partnership during a media event attended by InterDigital CEO William Merritt, Gov. Jack Markell, U.S. Sen. Tom Carper and others. Dr. Williams said that the University is grateful for InterDigital's financial support and its commitment to help DSU expand its science laboratory capabilities.

"InterDigital's support assists DSU in fulfilling its core value of Scholarship as well as in its Strategic Plan goals that relate to providing exceptional learning environments, achieving the top notch preparation of our students, and the expansion of DSU's scholarly and creative research capacity," Dr. Williams said. "Because we are a state institution of higher education, InterDigital's support of DSU also helps the State of Delaware be all it can be."

Gov. Markell noted that a lot of companies talk about the importance of higher education, but InterDigital has taken that a big step farther. "When you see a company like InterDigital put its money where its mouth is and step up to support DSU, this is how you build an economy," Gov. Markell said. "We have long felt that the best way to build strong economy is to focus on innovation and workforce development, and institutions like DSU are in the center of that and so are companies like InterDigital. This is the kind of investment that will pay dividend for years to come."

Sen. Carper said that InterDigital is making a worthwhile investment in DSU research. "DSU is well on its way to becoming a research hub in the state, and I'm incredibly proud of the strides it has made under Dr. Melikechi and President Williams," he said.

According to Dr. Nouredine Melikechi, dean of the CMNST, the grant funding will be used to establish three new laboratories in the University's Mishoe Science Center:

- A digital and analog electronics laboratory
- A wireless communications, signal processing and controls laboratory
- An advanced micro-controller design lab.

"These new teaching laboratories will allow us to better prepare our undergraduate students in fields that are critical in many aspects of their education and growth," said Dr. Melikechi, who is also DSU's vice president for Research, Innovation and Economic Development. "In addition, thanks to this grant, we will be in a better position to serve the high technology companies in our region."

William Merritt, CEO of InterDigital, said he views DSU as a good source for future technology professionals. "As one of the leading American companies in the field of wireless technologies, we at InterDigital depend on the work being done here at DSU and in universities across the nation to prepare young people for careers in STEM fields," Mr. Merritt said. "We are very pleased to be a part of the Delaware State University College of Mathematics, Natural Sciences and Technology team on a new mission to the future – a mission to ensure that our young people are well equipped to be the researchers, engineers and business leaders our economy needs."

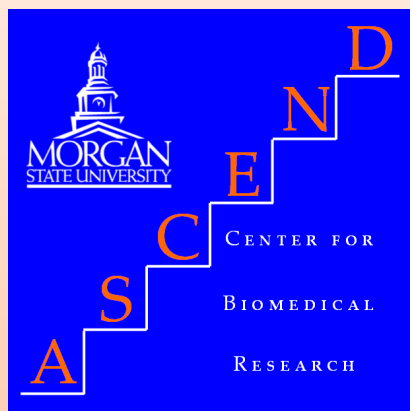
David G. Turner, chairman of the DSU Board of Trustees, said that InterDigital support of DSU fits in well with two major university priorities – student success and sustainability.



Morgan Wins Prestigious \$23.3 Million Biomedical Research and Training Award

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) awarded \$23.3 million to Morgan State University (MSU), the largest NIH competitive award in the University's history. The purpose of this 5-year (2014 – 2019) award is to strengthen the training and research infrastructure of MSU in biomedical research, with the ultimate goal of training undergraduate students to become outstanding biomedical researchers. The award will provide funds for establishment of Active Learning Centers, improving curricula, purchasing state-

of-the-art educational software, strengthening laboratory resources, equipping research laboratories, allowing for release time and sabbatical opportunities for faculty, stipend for select students, and establishing a center dedicated to student research at MSU. The application was highly competitive; fewer than 10% of applications were funded. Successful execution of the project will allow for another potential 5-year renewal, for a total funding over \$50 million.



The application submitted by the MSU Research Team was entitled “A Student-Centered, Entrepreneurship Development (ASCEND) Training Model to Increase Diversity in Biomedical Research”. Based on this award, a new center entitled the “ASCEND Center for Biomedical Research” has been established on the campus. Because of its multidisciplinary nature, and enterprise participation, the ASCEND program is under the auspices of the Division of Research and Economic Development and is led by Dr. Farin Kamangar, Professor and Chairman of Department of Public Health Analysis, School of Community Health and Policy (SCHP). Biomedical Sciences, as defined in the application, includes all health-relevant research, and encompasses research in the fields of public health, biology, psychology, sociology, social work, nutrition, nursing, and also health-relevant research in the fields of physics, chemistry, and mathematics.

The Research Team submitting this proposal included an interdisciplinary group of eight MSU faculty members. The team included Drs. Farin Kamangar, Payam Sheikhattari, Christine Hohmann, Ian Lindong, Jocelyn Turner-Musa, Cleo Hughes-Darden, Gloria Hoffman, and Michael Koban. These investigators will oversee the project and direct the four cores defined by the project, i.e., the Research Enrichment Core, the Student Training Core, the Institutional Development Core, and the Administrative Core.

South Carolina State University Awarded \$6,035,796 from Department of Energy's Office of Environmental Management

The Department of Energy's Office of Environmental Management (DOE-EM) established a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in April 06, 2010 with nine HBCUs in South Carolina and Northeast Georgia. The nine HBCUs (Allen University, Benedict College, Claflin University, Clinton Junior College, Demark Technical College, Morris College, South Carolina State University, Voorhees College and Paine College of Northeast Georgia) have formulated a consortium to address the technical and workforce development needs of the DOE's Office of Environmental Management. South Carolina State University (SCSU) has been awarded a total of \$6,035,796.00 to continue building upon its existing relationships with DOE-EM by creating a "pipeline" for minorities in Mathematics, Science & Technology, Engineering, Research, and other related fields. Students are specifically trained and mentored to enter the DOE workforce in these technical areas of need. However, the grant period ends September 30, 2015.

SCSU has contributed to DOE's Environmental Management mission, particularly as it relates to the following needs:

- Improve environmental sampling and characterization methods
- Improve environmental cleanup methods
- Improve pretreatment options and deployment approaches for tank waste processing
- Improve EM Computational Science

SCSU proposed three areas with assigned specific objectives to achieve the aforementioned goal:

- **Project Management**- to create an effective management and communication network to effectively achieve the objectives of the proposed projects
- **Research** – to build upon the existing relationship with DOE-EM to provide research activities that will address the scientific and technical needs of DOE
- **Workforce Development**- to provide educational preparation and student training for the development of the appropriate skill sets of STEM students in the area of environmental management and related fields for employment with DOE-EM.

SCSU uses current educational and research resources of the University and its partners to implement research activities that will assist DOE-EM in solving problems relative to the scientific and technical needs mentioned in this proposal. South Carolina State University in conjunction with DOE-EM currently focuses on the following identified major research areas::

- Environmental Remediation (ER)
- Nuclear Regulatory and Transportation Safety (NRTS)
- Modeling (M)



Rehabilitation faculty receives federal grants totaling \$3.5 million

Southern University's Department of Rehabilitation and Disability Studies in the College of Nursing and Allied Health has received federal funding of grants totaling \$3.5 million to increase the number of students in Rehabilitation Counseling.

The funding is part of the Long-Training Grants in the Rehabilitation Services Administration of the U.S. Department of Education.

"There is a great demand for Rehabilitation Counselors who can assist people with physical, mental and social disabilities to become employed and productive members of society," said Dr. Madan Kundu, professor and chair of the Department of Rehabilitation and Disability Studies.

The graduates will work in state-federal vocational rehabilitation agencies and community rehabilitation programs.

Here's how the grants are designated. Rehabilitation Counseling with Specialization in Psychiatric Rehabilitation will receive \$1 million. The project director is Dr. Alo Datta. The Associate Project Director is Dr. Kundu, and Assistant Project Director is Dr. Veronica Umeasiegbu.

There is \$1 million set aside for Rehabilitation Counseling with Specialization in Assistive Technology. The project director is Dr. Kundu. The Principal Investigator is Dr. Frank Puckett and Co-Principal Investigator is Dr. Dutta.

Dr. Dutta is the project director for a \$750,000 grant for Rehabilitation Counseling with Specialization in Mental Illness's. The Associate Project Director is Dr. Kundu and the Assistant Project Director is Dr. Ebonee Johnson.

Dr. Kundu is the co-principal investigator along with Dutta and Dr. Frank Puckett on a \$750,000 Vocational Evaluation and Work Adjustment grant. The Co-Principal Investigator is Dr. Dutta.

There is an acute shortage of qualified rehabilitation counselors in the country, especially of culturally diverse backgrounds. The U. S. Department of Labor projection indicates that there is a 28 percent increase in the need for qualified rehabilitation counselors through 2020. Individuals with master's degree are expected to increase their lifetime earnings by \$400,000 over individuals with a bachelor's degree.



The grants will provide a total of 28 scholarships: 20 scholarships of \$17,500 and 8 scholarships of \$22,500 (including \$5,000 graduate assistantship) covering tuition and fees, books, monthly stipend, and travel to national conferences.

The master's degree program in Rehabilitation Counseling is accredited by the Council on Rehabilitation Education (CORE). A minimum of 48 hours is required to earn a master's degree which includes 30 hours of core courses, 9 hours of specialization, 3 hours of practicum and 6 hours of internship, and passing a comprehensive examination or passing the national Certified Rehabilitation Counselor (CRC) examination or departmental comprehensive examination.

The specialization in Psychiatric Rehabilitation is 60 hours in Clinical Rehabilitation Counseling allows one to obtain state licenses and CRC. The curriculum is offered both on campus and online.

NIH Awards Center for Sickle Cell Disease \$11 million in Grants

The Center for Sickle Cell Disease, a division of Howard University Hospital, has garnered nearly \$11 million in National Institutes of Health (NIH) grants to study HIV resistance in people with sickle cell disease and to support the development of the new Center for Hemoglobin Research in Minorities, known as CHaRM. "These grants put Howard University in the forefront of advanced research," said Sergei Nekhai, Ph.D., virologist and professor in the College of Medicine. "Howard has strong expertise which allows us to expand HIV and sickle cell research."



The NIH awarded Howard about \$7 million to develop CHaRM. It is being planned as a center of excellence for the study of hemoglobinopathies, iron metabolism and oxygen sensing. CHaRM will be dedicated to educating and training minority students and fellows by providing research and laboratory experience. CHaRM will also work in collaboration with the HBCU Research Scientist Program at the Center for Sickle Cell Disease.

The Center for Sickle Cell Disease received close to \$2 million to continue research that indicated people with sickle cell disease may have certain resistance against the HIV virus. The Center also received nearly \$2 million to develop new therapeutics for Ebola virus infection that will target Ebola virus VP30 protein.

Alcorn State University: Dr. Jairo Awarded Grant to Aid Farmers



Dr. Jairo Diaz, director of the Mississippi River Research Center, assistant professor in the Department of Agriculture, and program leader for the Environmental Science Emphasis Program, School of Agriculture, Extension, Research and Applied Sciences, now serves as project director of a recently awarded grant from the United States Department of Agriculture's National Institute of Food and Agriculture (USDA-NIFA).

Awarded in the amount of \$499,794 the grant will be used to support Alcorn State University's Research and Extension programs by promoting rural community development, economic growth, and sustainability.

According to Diaz, the funds awarded by this grant will be used for a project aimed at helping growers adopt sustainable irrigation technology on their farms "to improve their income while minimizing negative impacts to the environment. There are nearly 42,000 farms in Mississippi, of which 92% are classified as small, who could benefit from this research."

Another component of the program includes an educational initiative for small and limited-resource growers, by which they can improve the productivity and economic viability of both their farms and the communities they serve.

Applicable from January 2015 through January 2018, the project is supported by the Agricultural and Food Research Initiative (AFRI), a competitive program of the USDA-NIFA.

"This project is stakeholder driven and is being developed with significant input from small fruit and vegetable growers and groups, as well as with close collaboration from Mississippi State University, the state's other land-grant institution," said Diaz.



N.C. A&T State University to Lead \$5 Million Project on Unmanned Vehicles

A research team led by North Carolina A&T State University will develop control systems for a new dimension in battlefield strategy: large teams of unmanned vehicles. The five-year project will expand the use of autonomous vehicles, such as drones, to a larger scale and more diverse missions. It will be funded by a \$5 million grant from the U.S. Air Force.

The vision is to manage future battlefields with autonomous vehicles working together in the air, on the ground, on the water and/or underwater. The vehicles could be controlled remotely by human operators or they could maneuver autonomously in complex environments. Teams of autonomous vehicles working in concert with soldiers, sailors and fliers would be capable of a variety of cooperative missions, such as surveillance and reconnaissance.

“The concept of systems of vehicles is new,” says Dr. Abdollah Homaifar, Duke Energy Eminent Professor of computer engineering at N.C. A&T and leader of the project. “It’s about teaming and cooperation among the autonomous vehicles.

“Teams of these vehicles could provide an advantage on the battlefield, but we need to learn how to move beyond controlling, for example, one drone at a time, and how they can work together. These are complex systems that will operate together in extreme conditions.”

The funding will allow N.C. A&T to establish a multi-disciplinary Center for Testing, Evaluation and Control of Heterogeneous Large-Scale Autonomous Vehicles. A&T’s partners on the project will be the [University of Texas at San Antonio](#) and [Southwestern Indian Polytechnic Institute](#), a national tribal community college, in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

The project will build on the team’s years of research in robotics, control, machine learning and expert systems. It will focus on three related areas:

- Modeling, analysis and control of autonomous vehicles, led by Dr. Mo Jamshidi of UTSA,
- Resilient control and communication for large-scale systems of autonomous vehicles, led by Dr. Ali Karimoddini of A&T, and
- Testing, evaluation and verification, led by Dr. Younho Seong of A&T.

The results will be integrated by Dr. Fatemeh Afghah at A&T.

In addition, the team will develop an education and outreach program to bring the team’s work to the classroom and to foster public awareness. Dr. John Kelly of A&T and Dr. Nader Vadiee of Southwestern Indian Polytechnic Institute will lead that work. Vadiee is project director for the college’s [NASA Tribal College and University Experiential Learning Opportunities](#) program.

Applications of the team’s technology won’t be limited to the military. “The results can be extended to other classes of systems of systems such as smart grids, transportation systems, air-traffic control systems, and more,” Homaifar says.

Autonomous Vehicle System Sea Operations



Images from "Unmanned Systems Integrated Roadmap FY2013-2038," Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) Task Force, Department of Defense

Norfolk State University and Bowie State University Join the Cybersecurity Workforce Pipeline Consortium

Vice President Biden, Secretary of Energy Ernest Moniz, and White House Science Advisor John Holdren traveled to Norfolk State University in Norfolk, Virginia to announce that the Department of Energy will provide a \$25 million grant over the next five years to support cybersecurity education. The new grant will support the creation of a new cybersecurity consortium. The visit built on the President's announcements on cybersecurity, focusing on the critical need to fill the growing demand for skilled cybersecurity professionals, while also diversifying the pipeline of talent in the science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) fields. The event and announcement are also an opportunity to highlight the Administration's ongoing commitment to HBCUs.

Details :

As highlighted by the President, the rapid growth of cybercrime is creating a growing need for cybersecurity professionals across a range of industries, from financial services, health care, and retail to the US government itself. By some estimates, the demand for cybersecurity workers is growing *12 times faster* than the U.S. job market, and is creating well-paying jobs.

To meet this growing need, the Department of Energy is establishing the *Cybersecurity Workforce Pipeline Consortium* with funding from the Minority Serving Institutions Partnerships Program housed in its National Nuclear Security Administration. The Minority Service Institutions Program focuses on building a strong pipeline of talent from minority-serving institutions to DOE labs, with a mix of research collaborations, involvement of DOE scientists in mentoring, teaching and curriculum development, and direct recruitment of students.



The consortium has a number of core attributes:

- It is designed as a system-allows students that enter through any of the partner schools to have all consortia options available to them, to create career paths and degree options through collaboration between all the partners (labs and schools), and to open the doors to DOE sites and facilities.
- It has a range of participating higher education institutions- the consortium includes a K-12 school district, a two-year technical college, as well as four-year public and private universities that offer graduate degrees.
- Built to change to evolving employer needs: To be successful in the long term, this program is designed to be sufficiently flexible in its organization to reflect the unique regional priorities that Universities have in faculty research and developing STEM disciplines and skills, and DOE site targets for research and critical skill development.
- Diversifying the pipeline by working with leading minority-serving institutions- America's HBCUs, for over 150 years, have produced many of the Nation's leaders in science, business, government, academia, and the military, and have provided generations of American men and women with hope and educational opportunity.

The full list of participating consortium members are:

Virginia-Norfolk State University (lead)

Georgia- Clark Atlanta University & Paine College

Maryland- Bowie State University

North Carolina- North Carolina A&T State University

South Carolina- Allen University, Benedict College, Claflin University, Denmark Technical College, Morris College, South Carolina State University, Voorhees College, & Charleston County School District

US Virgin Islands- University of the Virgin Islands

California- Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory

New Mexico- Sandia National Laboratories



Norfolk State University

NSU and its partners will use the funds, which will be distributed over a five-year period, for training students and faculty; course development; research in cybersecurity fields; and expanding cybersecurity programs.

According to National Nuclear Security Administration officials, Norfolk State's academic infrastructure in computer science, information assurance and cybersecurity were some of the factors that led to its selection. The University has received funding from NNSA for cybersecurity training and research since 2009 and served as the leader of a smaller cybersecurity consortium since 2012. In addition, NSU has been recognized by the National Security Agency and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security as a national center of excellence in information assurance education since 2009.

NSU Provost Dr. Sandra J. DeLoatch, the Principal Investigator for the Project, said the award will allow the University to educate students and to position NSU to increase its online offerings. DeLoatch said the program should appeal to prospective students looking to take undergraduate- and graduate-level courses as well as veterans transitioning from the Armed Forces.

"The grant is not just about cybersecurity, it is also about developing a workforce pipeline in a very critical area," DeLoatch said. "Well-trained cybersecurity workers are needed and our goal is to be a leading institution in that field. We, along with our partners, plan to educate a new generation of cybersecurity workers who will help keep our country safe from cyber-attacks."



Bowie State University

Maryland's booming cybersecurity industry will soon have a new hoard of skilled workers vying for positions. U.S. Senator Barbara Mikulski announced last week that Bowie State University will receive \$1.2 million as part of a 5-year, \$25 million grant through the U.S. Department of Energy.

Bowie State is one of 13 colleges and universities that will be part of the Cybersecurity Workforce Pipeline Consortium, an initiative to train the next wave of diverse and skilled cybersecurity professionals.

Mikulski lauded Maryland as a cybersecurity hub and expressed her gratitude that Bowie State University can further educate future cybersecurity professionals through the grant. "Maryland is the global epicenter of cybersecurity, developing our nation's cyber workforce to fill cyber jobs that are available now," Mikulski said in a prepared statement. "I am proud to see that Bowie State University is a partner in this new consortium to train cybersecurity workers to fill jobs today and jobs tomorrow. Through cyber education, innovation and hands-on training, we will prepare students to be our first line of defense against cyber-attacks, making our nation safer and Maryland's economy stronger."

Weldon Jackson, provost and vice president for academic affairs, described how Bowie State University will use the grant. "As part of the consortium, Bowie State University will expand its cybersecurity research efforts, enhance its cybersecurity curriculum, and increase opportunities for students to learn from real-world experiences in the field," he said.

"The grant will also allow Bowie State to increase its technological capability and develop additional K-12 pipeline summer programs."

Additionally, the grant will provide students with internships at Sandia National Labs in New Mexico where they will receive training from industry professionals, participate in cybersecurity case studies and gain hands-on experience. Dr. Lethia Jackson, a computer science professor at the university, said the cybersecurity research will focus on hacking, software cybersecurity and network security among other research areas.

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