

30th Annual NSPAA Technical Assistance Workshop | June 2026



From Zero to Infrastructure

Comparative Lessons in Building Research Security Capacity



TEXAS SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY

Joan M. Lafleur
College of Pharmacy & Health Sciences

From Zero to Infrastructure: Comparative Lessons in Building Research Security Capacity at Minority-Serving & Emerging Research Universities

PRESENTERS

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Mana Rassaeikashuk, MSc, MBA	Doctoral Student, Pharmaceutical Sciences	Texas Southern University

1. Introduction
2. Background & Overview (MSU, DSU & TSU)
3. Five Phases of Research Security Implementation
4. Introduction to the Framework
5. Evaluation of Artificial Intelligence Tool for Research Security Oversight
6. Takeaways
7. Question & Answers

A G E N D A



ABOUT OUR TEAM



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MORGAN STATE UNIVERSITY



**Overview,
Infrastructural
Gaps &
Challenges**



DELAWARE STATE UNIVERSITY



**Overview,
Infrastructural
Gaps &
Challenges**

DSU
It All Matters.

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**Carnegie
Community
Engagement
Classification**

*The gold standard
for community
engagement
in U.S. higher
education.*

TSU

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Phase 1: GAP ANALYSIS (*Assess the Current State*)

1. The segmented FCOI Process
2. Export Control Policy but limited procedural oversight
3. Silos with DiT
4. Limited Foreign Travel Oversight

1. Research Security training
2. Lack of faculty & staff
3. Export Controls lack of procedure
4. Low knowledge of MFTRP



Phase 2: RISK PRIORITIZATION (*Operationalize Compliance*)

1. Partnering with internal audit & risk management to learn & implement practices of developing risk scoring model or heat map

2. Based on risk likelihood & impact

1. Most impactful
2. Survey and rank what's most important
3. Work with all departments to understand current state



Phase 3: POLICY & SOP DEVELOPMENT *(Focus Where It Matters Most)*

1. policies are approved by the board of regents
2. can only develop procedures were none existed
3. Inherit challenges when introducing the idea to culture not familiar w/ documenting their steps
4. Mapped the procedures to the research security regulations (NSPM-33 & others)

1. Current policies related to research security
2. Create at committee to review and develop policies and procedures
3. Roles and responsibilities



Phase 4: IMPLEMENTATION & INTEGRATION

1. established cross functional committee of faculty, budget officers, internal audit, risk management & dit to meet consistently to discuss matters
2. Received best practice advice & artifacts to use from mentoring partner UMBC & NSF SECURE resources

1. Ensure there is a diverse committee
2. Consistently have site that is updated on any policy changes and resources
- 3 Continue to work with other universities to help develop best practices

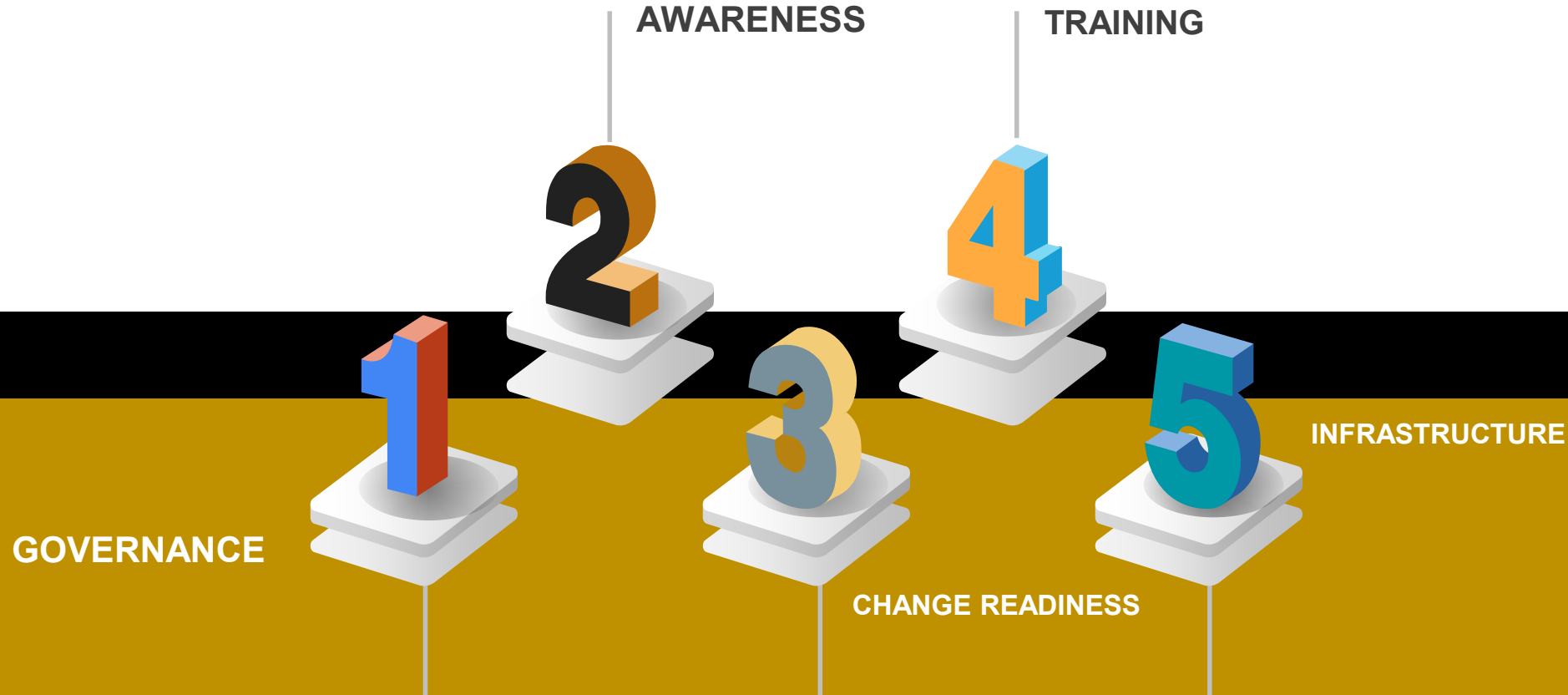


Phase 5: MONITORING, AUDIT, & CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

1. talked to key stakeholders to inform eyes/ears oversight is limited
2. develop compliance champions in higher risk stem depts
3. Create dashboards of metrics & oversight requirements related to export controls, foreign travel etc

1. Internal Auditing yearly
2. Have mandatory annual training
3. Develop a survey which could give us consistent information.

AI READINESS INTEGRATION MODEL (AIRM)



ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE FOR RESEARCH SECURITY OVERSIGHT SUPPORT



**Custom / Open-Source AI:
Low-cost, tailored for
HBCU needs; higher
internal maintenance**

MSU Research Integrity Security Compliance Smart Assistant

 *Smart Assistant for Research Integrity, Compliance & Security Support*

I am trained on the MSU Office of Research Compliance's internal Standard Operating Procedures to help you navigate institutional and federal research security guidance.

Signed in as Mana

Logout

 Select a category:

All Categories

 What would you like me to help you with?

 Try asking one of these:

What is the purpose of the Research Security Compliance Program SOP?





***“Do the best
you can until
you know
better. Then
when you
know better,
do better.”***

Maya Angelou

TAKEAWAYS

1. Research institutions share common, structural gaps that slow growth
1. A strategic, repeatable framework accelerates institutional readiness
1. Innovative tools, including AI, strengthen long-term research security capacity



Thank You

SCAN THE QR CODES TO CONNECT ON LINKEDIN



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