



National Institutes of Health
Office of Management



National Institutes of Health (NIH)
Office of Acquisition and Logistics Management

The Path to Excellence and Innovation (PEI) Initiative

National Sponsored Programs Administrators
Alliance

June 1 - 5, 2026

Annette Owens-Scarboro



AGENDA

- Mission Statement
- Executive Order 14283
- PEI Program Evolution
- PEI Initiative Framework - North American Industry Classification System (NAICS)
- HBCU + Small Business Partner – PEI IDIQ
- Key Achievements
- Impact of the PEI Program (GAO Report)
- HHS and NIH Prime Contract Funding to HBCUs
- PEI Next Steps
- Questions & Discussions



Mission Statement

The mission of the NIH PEI Initiative is to empower Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) with the knowledge, resources, strategic partnerships, and technical expertise necessary to successfully compete for and secure contract opportunities with the NIH. Through targeted engagement, capacity-building, and workforce development, the initiative seeks to strengthen institutional research capabilities, diversify revenue streams, expand participation in federal contracting and biomedical research, and create sustainable opportunities for innovation, collaboration, and long-term growth within the federal sector.



President's Executive Order 14283

Executive Order 14283—White House Initiative To Promote Excellence and Innovation at Historically Black Colleges and Universities

Section 1. Purpose. Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) remain integral to American students' pursuit of prosperity and well-being, providing the pathway to a career and a better life. This order will continue the work begun during my first Administration to elevate the value and impact of our Nation's HBCUs as beacons of educational excellence and economic opportunity that serve as some of the best cultivators of tomorrow's leaders in business, government, academia, and the military.

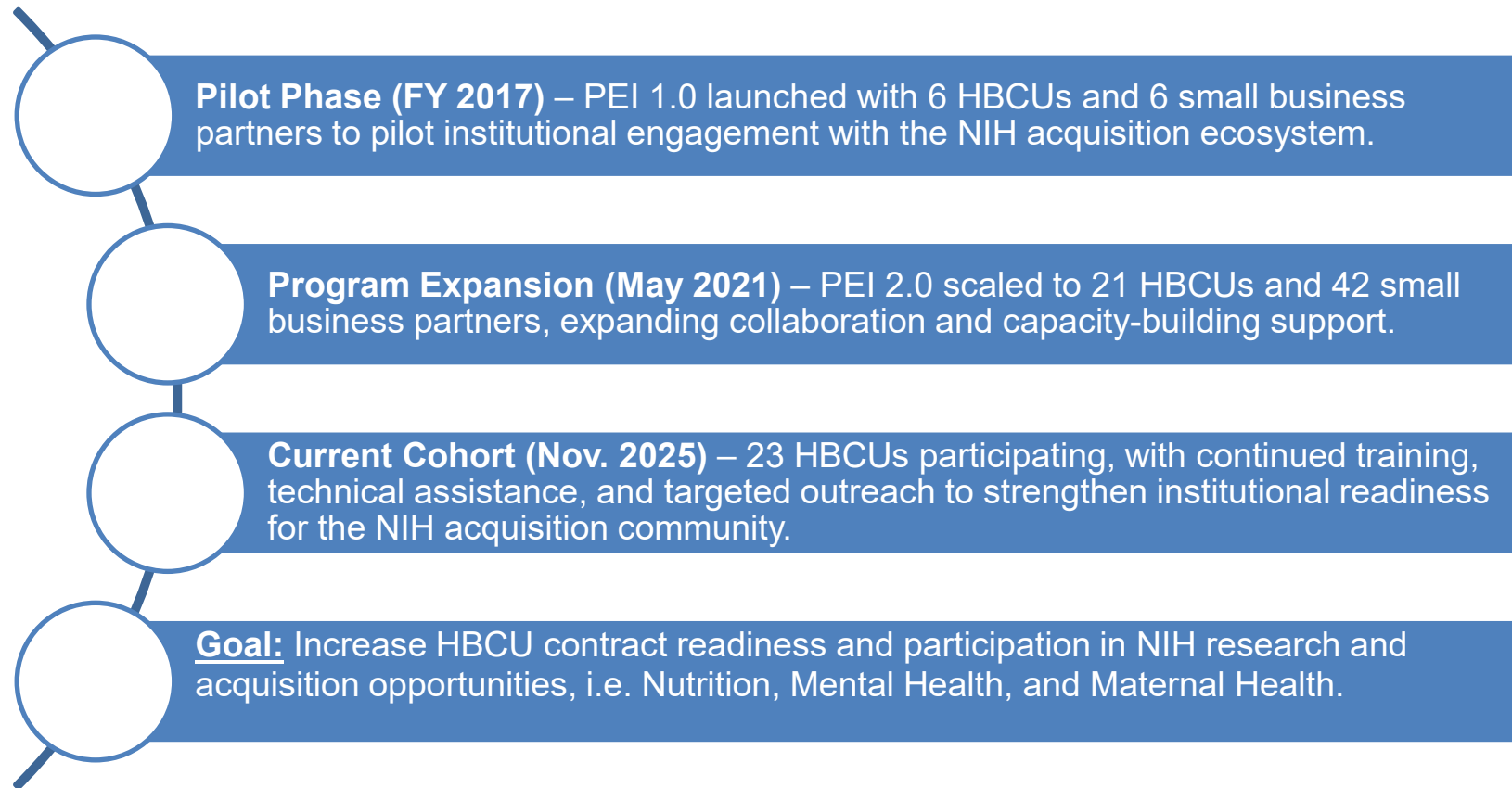
DONALD J. TRUMP
The White House,
April 23, 2025.

- Executive Order 14283 establishes a mandate, not a **mechanism**, for how to increase HBCU participation in research and development.
- PEI is NIH's implementation vehicle for increasing HBCU contract readiness, translating policy into measurable outcomes.
- PEI addresses a gap between research capacity and federal acquisition readiness at HBCUs.

Outcome: Positions NIH as the federal leader in operationalizing access to R&D markets and engaging the broader federal, private, and public sector ecosystem.



PEI Program Evolution





Operationalizing EO 14283: The PEI Initiative Framework

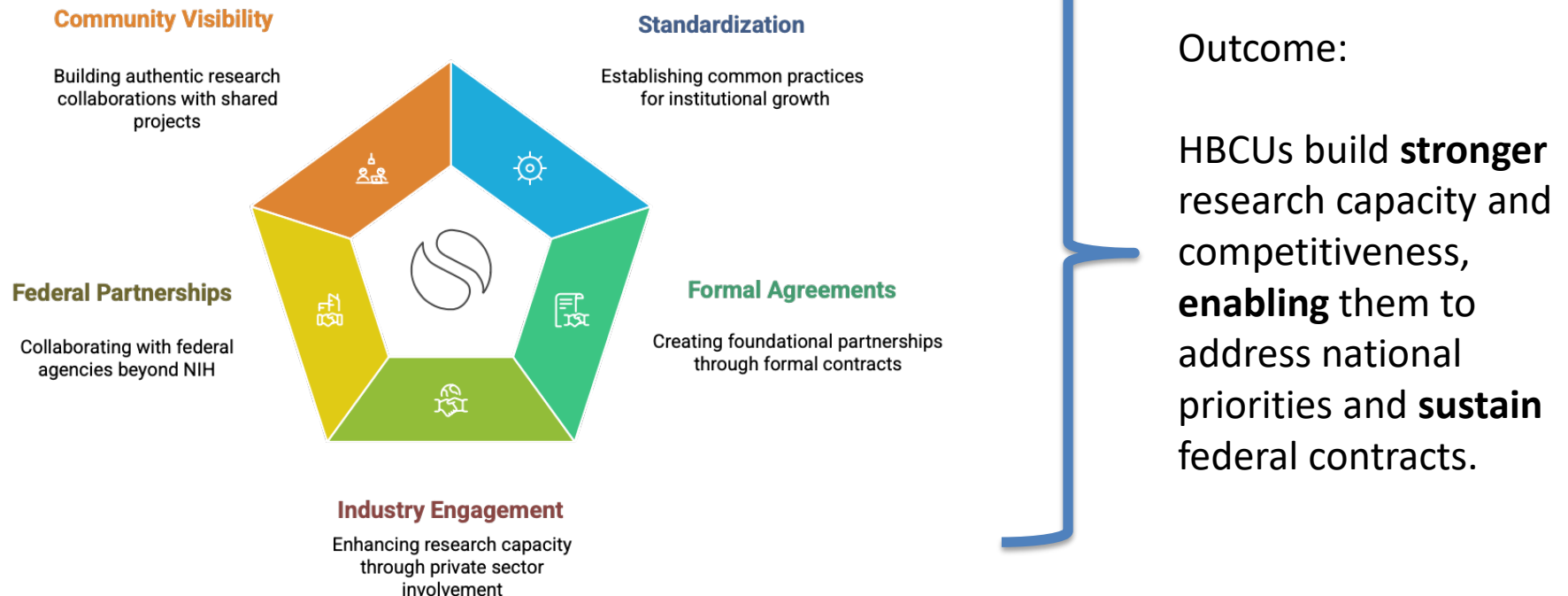


Figure 1. A Sustainable Framework to Strengthen HBCU Biomedical Research Competitiveness.



NAICS	Description	Impact
541715	R&D in the Physical, Engineering, and Life Sciences (core NIH)	Core NIH research; primary code for Jackson State and Tougaloo (Jackson Heart Study); high-value sector driving federal dollars into the economy.
541511 / 541512	Custom Computer Programming & Systems Design / Computer Systems Design Services (sometimes classified under R&D in physical sciences)	Supports workforce development, epidemiological studies; aligns with NIH Unified Strategy for solution-based research; highlights contract volatility and risk management needs. e.g. de-obligations, exercised option years, etc.
541990	Custom Computer Programming & Systems Design / Computer Systems Design Services (sometimes classified under R&D in physical sciences)	PEI IDIQ mechanism ; key for operationalizing contracting readiness and federal collaboration; enables HBCUs to translate research capacity into measurable outcomes, enhancing scalability and visibility.
611430	Professional and Management Development	Community Engagement- important for translational research, societal impact to enforce clinical and technical implementation
611310	Colleges, Universities	Tuition based, integral to workforce development *NIH FY2022 NINDS Scientific Research Preparatory Program

Key Data Insight

NAICS codes define the services an organization can provide; while many HBCUs are primarily classified under **611310 (Colleges and Universities)**, examining secondary NAICS codes helps reveal their full biomedical research and technical capabilities, better positioning them for federal and industry contracts and highlighting their impact on the broader biomedical research ecosystem.



Purpose of the HBCU + Small Business Partner

Small businesses function as the **operational bridge** between HBCU research excellence and federal acquisition requirements.

Serving to:

- De-risk contract execution
- Provide compliance-ready infrastructure
- Allow HBCUs to lead scientifically without having to build parallel business systems overnight.



NIH HBCU Path to Excellence and Innovation (NIH HBCU PEI) IDIQ



Businesses	Universities/Partner
TASK ORDER 1 – BIO-MEDICAL FEFA, LLC Lord and Tucker Management Consultants Professional Management Consulting Services Technuff, LLC	TASK ORDER 1 – BIO-MEDICAL Hampton University Morgan State University Tennessee State/Meharry Medical/RTI Bowie State/Cheyney
TASK ORDER 2- Business and Professional Support Service LIVE Longevity Periodt PMP	TASK ORDER 2- Business and Professional Support Service Oakwood University/Clinton College Jackson State University Maryland Eastern Shore Alabama A&M University
TASK ORDER 3 – Laboratory/Products A. Reddix & Associates, Inc (Ardx) Axis Consultant Group Defense Technology Integration, LLC Erimax, Inc	TASK ORDER 3 – Laboratory/Products Virginia State University/Hampton University/JL Cheyney University/Sure Bio-Chem Tuskegee University/Bowie State /Morgan State Hampton University/Bowie State University
TASK ORDER 4 – Public Health Outreach/ Communication & Research Arch Systems A.Reddix & Associates Inc (Ardx) Ripple Effect Bizzle Group	TASK ORDER 4 – Public Health Outreach/ Communication & Research Bowie State University/Florida A&M University/Elizabeth City State University Virginia State University, Hampton University/JL Florida Memorial University, Hampton University, Norfolk State University Bowie State University/Southern University of New Orleans



Anticipated Impact of the PEI Program

Reduce Federal Risk

- Standardize contracting readiness for emerging research institutions
- Improve acquisition performance and compliance

Expand NIH Research Capacity

- Unlock underutilized biomedical R&D capability aligned to NIH and HHS priorities
- Strengthen national research and workforce development

Delivers Scalable Federal Return On Investment (ROI)

- Create a reproducible model deployable across ICs and agencies
- Align institutional growth with current federal mission needs
- Additionally funded contract opportunities for HBCUs



Key Achievements

Highlights:

- **Major Federal Research Awards & Partnerships** – NINDS award through the Scientific Research Preparatory Program; strategic collaboration with the National Cancer Institute and the Frederick National Laboratory for Cancer Research.
- **Expanding Federal Research Pathways** – Bowie State University's participation in the FLEX Program to increase student and faculty engagement in federal laboratory research.
- **Howard University UARC Award**– PEI Accelerator training support contributed to contract development, strengthening Howard's pathway to R1 status, and supporting national defense research initiatives.
- **NIH Site Visits to HBCU Campuses** – Ongoing engagement with university leadership, research faculty, and administrators to assess institutional capabilities and research infrastructure.
- **Successfully competed an IDIQ**----NIH has successfully awarded an IDIQ contract to 16 small businesses who are partnered with 16 HBCUs.
- **Successfully executed** - The NIH PEI IDIQ contract to be utilized HHS-wide.
- **Successfully on-boarded** – 23 new HBCUs.
- **Successfully established** – NIH PEI Advisory Committee



IDIQ Highlight in GAO Report

Table 24: Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Competitive Research Funding Programs and Initiatives Targeted to HBCUs, TCUs, or MSIs (Fiscal Years 2022–2024)

Agency and office	Program name	Example eligible focus area(s)
Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Office of Minority Health	Minority Research Grant Program	Health services
Health Resources and Services Administration, Maternal and Child Health Bureau	Maternal Health Research Collaborative for Minority-Serving Institutions*	Maternal health
National Institutes of Health, National Institute of General Medical Sciences, Division of Biophysics, Biomedical Technology, and Computational Biosciences	Instrumentation Grant Program for Resource-Limited Institutions	Cell and organ systems, genomics, and neuroscience
National Institutes of Health, National Institute of General Medical Sciences, Division of Research Capacity Building	Native American Research Centers for Health	Mechanisms that underlie disease and the effectiveness of interventions
	Support for Research Excellence Award	Genomics, aging, infectious disease, and bioengineering
National Institutes of Health, National Institute of General Medical Sciences, Division of Training and Workforce Development	Leading Equity and Diversity in the Medical Scientist Training Program	Biomedical
National Institutes of Health, National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities	John Lewis National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities Research Endowment Program	Minority health and health disparities
	Research Centers in Minority Institutions	Minority health and health disparities; behavioral, population, and clinical services research
	Strengthening Research Opportunities for NIH Grants	Biomedical, including basic, behavioral, and clinical research
National Institutes of Health, Office of Acquisitions	HBCU Indefinite Delivery/Indefinite Quantity Contract	Biomedical and public health

Source: GAO analysis of HHS documents and survey responses. | GAO-25-107576

*While all institutions of higher education were eligible to apply, the program focused on MSIs, and non-MSI applicants were expected to partner with an MSI.

GAO-25-107576 explicitly cites the IDIQ— marking formal government recognition of the IDIQ, validating the impact in advancing HBCU visibility at the federal level.

Internal Message:

Elevating National Research and Workforce Preparedness in Federal R&D

External Message:

Strengthening HBCU participation in NIH's R&D ecosystem to address contract readiness.



FY2025 NIH Acquisition Organization COACs Solar Chart

National Institutes of Health

Clinical Center (CC)
R&D \$0 & Non-R&D \$330M
Total: \$330M
Susan Nsangou

National Heart Lung & Blood Institute
(NHLBI, NIAMS, CSR, NIDCR, NIBIB, NHGRI)
R&D \$113M & Non-R&D \$275M
Total: \$388M
Allison Cristman

National Institute on Drug Abuse
(NIDA, NINDS, NIMH, NIA, NCATS)
R&D \$170M & Non-R&D \$441M
Total: \$611M
Christopher Belt

National Cancer Institute
(NCI, NCCIH)
R&D \$700M & Non-R&D \$305M
Total: \$1,00B
Wanda Neal

NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH OFFICE OF ACQUISITION AND LOGISTICS MANAGEMENT (OALM)

Olga Acosta
Head of the Contracting Activity, NIH
Total: \$6,05B

National Institute of
Environmental Health Sciences
(NIEHS)
R&D \$71M & Non-R&D \$61M
Total: \$132M
Melissa Gentry

National Institute of Allergy &
Infectious Diseases
(NIAID, HHS Biodefense)
R&D \$449M & Non-R&D \$212M
Total: \$661M
George Kennedy

COAC: R&D Contracts: \$1,57B &
COAC: Non-R&D Contracts: \$4.13B
DELEGATED: Purchase Card: \$241M; Delivery/Task
Orders: \$60M; Purchase Orders: \$20M; BPA Calls: \$32M ;
Contracts: \$.073M

National Library of Medicine
(NLM, CIT, OD)
R&D \$.438M & Non-R&D \$492M
Total: \$493M
Dan Hartinger

National Institute of Child Health
& Human Development
(NICHD, NIAAA, FIC, NIDDK,
NIMHD, OER (NIH-OD))
R&D \$45M & Non-R&D \$208M
Total: \$253M
Jeremy White -Acting

Office of Logistics & Acquisition Operations
(OLAO, NINR, NEI, ORS, NIDCD, NIGMS,
OD, NITAAC)
R&D \$15.9M & Non-R&D \$642M
Total: \$658M
Shamay Knox
NITAAC: \$290M
Ricky Clark

Office of Research Facilities
(ORF)
All NIH Facilities Related to
Acquisitions
R&D \$1.7M & Non-R&D \$873M
Total: \$874M
Kala Shankar



FY2025 COAC Breakdown of Solar Chart

COACs	IC Customers	R&D Total Obligations	Non-R&D Total Obligations	TOTAL R&D and Non-R&D
CC	CC	\$M	\$330M	\$330M
NCI	NCI and NCCIH	\$700M	\$305M	\$1,00B
NHLBI	NHLBI, CSR, NIAMS, NIDCR, NIBIB, and NHGRI	\$113M	\$275M	\$388M
NIAID	NIAID, and HHS BIODENSE	\$449M	\$212M	\$661M
NICHD	NICHD, NIAAA, FIC, NIDDK, NIMHD, and OER (NIH-OD)	\$45M	\$208M	\$253M
NIDA	NIDA, NINDS, NIMH, NIA, and NCATS	\$170M	\$441M	\$611M
NIEHS	NIEHS	\$71M	\$61M	\$132M
NLM	NLM, CIT, NIH-OD	\$.438M	\$492M	\$493M
OLAO - NITAAC	OLAO [Services NIH-OD, NEI, NIDCD, NIGMS, ORS, NIH-OD, and NINR] NITAAC [Services all NIH and other Agencies]	\$.15.9M \$0M	\$642B \$290M	\$658M \$290M
ORF - *ORF-Lease	ORF and ALL NIH FACILITIES RELATED ACQUISITIONS	\$1.7M	\$873M	\$874M

• **Head of the Contracting Activity (HCA) – Total \$6,05B:**

- COAC \$5,67B (R&D \$1,57B; Non-R&D \$4,130B)
- COAC & DoA P-CARDS \$241M (includes credits)
- DoA \$112M (DO/TOs \$60M + POs \$20M + BPA Calls \$32M + Contracts \$73Th)
- Note: *ORF Leases (PSC X1**) \$125M (This figure is included in the ORF Non-R&D Total of \$874M)



FY 25 Total HHS and NIH Contract Funding to HBCUs

- Total HHS prime contract funding to HBCUs (FY2020–FY2025): \$52.1M
- NIH Total Funding (FY2017–2025): \$75.8M across all HBCUs
- FY2025 accounted for majority of total obligations: Combined FY2025 total (Tougaloo + JSU): \$42.41M (The Jackson Heart Study)



23 NIH Path to Excellence and Innovation (PEI) Initiative 2026 Participants

Historically Black Colleges and Universities	City	State
Alabama A&M University	Huntsville	Alabama
Alabama State University	Montgomery	Alabama
Clark Atlanta University	Atlanta	Georgia
Dillard University	New Orleans	Louisiana
Elizabeth City State University	Elizabeth City	North Carolina
Fayetteville State University	Fayetteville	North Carolina
Grambling State University	Grambling	Louisiana
Hampton University	Hampton	Virginia
Howard University	Washington	D.C.
Jackson State University	Jackson	Mississippi
Kentucky State University	Frankfort	Kentucky
Morehouse School of Medicine	Atlanta	Georgia
Morgan State University	Baltimore	Maryland
Norfolk State University	Norfolk	Virginia
North Carolina A&T State University	Greensboro	North Carolina
Prairie View A&M University	Prairie View	Texas
Savannah State University	Savannah	Georgia
Southern University and A&M College	Baton Rouge	Louisiana
Southern University of New Orleans	New Orleans	Louisiana
Texas Southern University	Houston	Texas
Tougaloo College	Jackson	Mississippi
Virginia State University	Petersburg	Virginia
Winston-Salem State University	Winston-Salem State	North Carolina

*HBCUs are currently seeking business partners to be paired with for strategic collaboration.



PEI Next Steps

- **Continued expansion of NIH Accelerator**
 - Scaling acquisition readiness, tier-aligned technical assistance, small business teaming, proposal development, and post-award performance support to strengthen HBCU participation in federal research and contracting.
- **Continued NIH–HBCU Engagement Through Site Visits**
 - Expanding campus visits to understand institutional capabilities, engage leadership and research teams, and identify opportunities for deeper collaboration.
- **HHS Secretary’s MAHA-NIH Joint Research Agenda**
 - A rapid award mechanism has been proposed to support the development of a three-year research portfolio to address current HHS priorities. Mature projects may transition into established frameworks, such as the PEI IDIQ, to support sustained implementation.
- **Strengthening Small Business–HBCU Collaborations Conference**
 - An upcoming two-day convening bringing together HBCUs, small businesses, federal agencies, researchers, healthcare professionals, industry, and philanthropic organizations to expand research partnerships and innovation ecosystems.
- **The HBCU Research Capacity Act** (introduced in 2026 as S.4167/H.R.8264)
 - is a bipartisan bill designed to increase federal research funding for HBCUs. It proposes a centralized federal clearinghouse website to streamline grant opportunities, helping HBCUs access more than 1% of federal R&D dollars and improve research infrastructure.



Questions and Discussion



Upcoming Events

HBCU CONFERENCE & PARTNERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Status	Conference / Event Name	Hosting Organization	Date(s)	Location	Target Audience & Focus	Key Contact Name & Title	Email	Phone	Official Website URL
UPCOMING	2026 HBCU Connect Annual Conference & Career Fair	HBCU Connect	April 30 – May 1, 2026	The Westin DC Downtown, Washington, DC	1,000+ HBCU professionals, 50+ top employers; career networking and federal employer engagement	HBCU Connect — Events & Partnerships Team	Need to verify at hbcuconnect.com/contact	Need to verify at hbcuconnect.com	https://hbcuconnect.com/content/409091
UPCOMING	2026 HBCU EdTech Summit & Career Fair — Designing the Future: Creativity, Ownership & Opportunity in the AI Era	Atlanta University Center Consortium (Clark Atlanta, Morehouse, Morehouse School of Medicine, Spelman)	2026 (exact date TBC — registration open now)	Atlanta University Center (AUC) Campus, Atlanta, GA	Senior Black leaders in education, STEM, psychology, entrepreneurship, higher ed administration; AI and innovation focus; 4th annual	AUC Consortium Staff	Need to verify at aucenter.edu/contact	(470) 428-2410	https://aucenter.edu/2026-hbcu-edtech-summit-in-the-auc/
	National Sponsor Programs Administrators Alliance (NSPAA) Work Conference - Technical Assistance Workshop	Grambling State University	July 1 - 5, 2026	New Orleans, LA	HBCUs	Theodore Callier, NSPAA President			
UPCOMING	Strengthening Small Business-HBCU Collaborations to Advance Research Conference	NIH Small Business Program Office	July 19–23, 2026	Natcher Building, Bethesda, MD	HBCUs	Ms Annette Owens-Scarboro, Small Business Program Office Program manager / HBCU Coordinator	PEI@nih.gov		
UPCOMING	UNCF UNITE 2026 — Nation's Premier HBCU Leadership & Capacity Building Summit	UNCF Institute for Capacity Building (ICB)	July 19–23, 2026	Signia by Hilton Atlanta World Congress Center, Atlanta, GA	1,400+ HBCU presidents, chancellors, faculty, staff, policymakers, philanthropic leaders; 5 pillars: Institutional Excellence, Student Success, Research & Innovation, Economic Mobility, Systems Change	Dr. Kendra M. Sharp — ICB Strategist (Sponsorship & Presenter Contact) UNITE Steering Committee — General Inquiries	Kendra.Sharp@uncf.org UNITE@uncf.org	(404) 551-5228	https://uncfcb.org/unity/
UPCOMING	TMCF Annual Leadership Institute 2026 (25th Annual)	Thurgood Marshall College Fund (TMCF)	Fall 2026 — typically September (2026 exact dates TBC)	Washington, DC (historically; verify at tmcf.org)	500+ HBCU students from 47 publicly-supported HBCUs; Fortune 500 companies, federal agencies, graduate programs; talent pipeline and professional development	Clara Ross Stamps — TMCF Media Contact TMCF Events / Programs Team	clara.stamps@tmcf.org	(240) 931-0606	https://tmcf.org/programs/leadership-institute/
UPCOMING	National HBCU Week Conference 2026 (Annual White House Initiative on HBCUs)	White House Initiative on HBCUs / U.S. Department of Education	Second week of September 2026 (exact dates TBC annually)	Washington, DC area (historically; verify at ed.gov/whhbcu)	HBCU presidents, faculty, students, federal agencies, private sector, philanthropy; federal-HBCU policy and partnership focus	White House Initiative on HBCUs Staff	oswhi-hbcu@ed.gov	Need to verify w/Tammy and Sedika	https://sites.ed.gov/whhbcu/hbcu-week-conference/
TBD	Howard University HBCU Doctoral Career Pathways Conference	Howard University Graduate School	Annual — 2026 exact date TBC (check gs.howard.edu)	Howard University, Washington, DC	HBCU doctoral alumni and current students; panels on federal government, biotech/pharma, STEM, nonprofits, policy/advocacy, health, consulting	Howard University Graduate School — Conference Coordinator	Need to verify at gs.howard.edu/contact	Need to verify with Howard	https://gs.howard.edu/docpathwaysconference
TBD	Howard University & PNC National Center HBCU Entrepreneurship Empowerment Summit 2026	Howard University & PNC National Center for Entrepreneurship	2026 exact date TBC (2025 held June 21 — check hupncenter.howard.edu)	Howard University Campus, Washington, DC	HBCU entrepreneurs, investors, ecosystem builders, students, faculty; small business and entrepreneurship ecosystem focus	Howard University National Center for Entrepreneurship — Events Team	Need to verify at hupncenter.howard.edu/contact	Need to verify with Howard	https://hupncenter.howard.edu/hbcuempower/
TBD	NAFEO Annual Conference (National Association for Equal Opportunity in Higher Education)	NAFEO	2026 date TBC — monitor nafeo.org	TBC (typically Washington, DC area)	HBCU and PBI presidents, chancellors, faculty; federal policy, research, and institutional advancement focus	NAFEO Executive Team — President & CEO's Office	Need to verify - nafeo.org/contact	Need to verify with NAFEO at nafeo.org	https://nafeo.org
UPCOMING	NIH PEI Nutrition Conference	NIH Small Business Program Office	1-Dec-26	NIH National Conference Center, Natcher Building, Bethesda, MD	Academic institutions including HBCUs	Annette Owens-Scarboro, Small Business Program Office & Dr. Yvonne Maddox, SSI Consultant	PEI@nih.gov		



National Institutes of Health
Office of Management

Registration is now open!

**Strengthening Small Business and HBCU
Collaborations to Advance Research Conference**
June 30-July 1, 2026



**Advancing research takes all of us.
Each piece. Each partner. One purpose.**

Register Here: <https://web.cvent.com/event/ac08cd54-e40e-47ce-92d4-22aae6c46629/summary>

Visit to Morgan State University





Morgan State University Showcases Innovative Autonomous Wheelchair Technology at BWI Thurgood Marshall Airport

by Morgan State U
JULY 31, 2025

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University's Pilot Program for Mobile App-Based Adaptive Wheelchair Aims to Enhance Mobility Solutions in Public Transportation Spaces

The current configuration of the autonomous wheelchair was developed in collaboration by the project's co-principal investigators: **Mansoureh Jeihani, Ph. D.**, a professor and the director of the National Transportation Center (NTC) and the SMARTER Center, and **Kofi Nyarko, Ph. D.**, a professor in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering and the director of CEAMLS at Morgan State University.

“The pilot program is made possible by way of a **collaborative licensing agreement** between Morgan State University and the Maryland Aviation Administration, ensuring that Morgan researchers have the space and access necessary to conduct their study and testing at Baltimore/Washington International Thurgood Marshall Airport”

