

BUILDING RESEARCH CAPACITY ACROSS AN ESTABLISHED NETWORK OF MSIs TO REDUCE HEALTH DISPARITIES

Priority Area(s): Priority 3: Build Capacity of Healthcare Organizations and the Workforce to Reduce Health Disparities

The MSI Research Council (MRC) is a subcommittee of the ORAU Council of Sponsoring Institutions and represents a core group of ORAU's University Consortium, a consortium of over 150 PhD-granting institutions. The MRC includes 35 HBCUs, HSIs and Tribal Colleges. The purpose of the MRC is to advance the research and education capabilities of the MRC members and to share leading practices across the established network of academic institutions.

ORAU places a high priority on fostering relationships between MSIs and federal, state and local government agencies across the country to increase diversity, decrease disparities and better meet the needs of the diverse populations that these institutions serve.

ORAU and the MRC member institutions work together to increase the competitiveness and readiness of MSI faculty and students to fully participate in the federal research and contracting enterprise. They also develop a differentiated research framework that maps institutional research capacity with national research priorities.

Recent successes include:

- ORAU was selected to participate in the National Institute of Health (NIH) 2021 Path to Excellence and Innovation (PEI) Initiative. PEI program is designed to assist in strengthening HBCU's contracting opportunities.
- Dr. Desmond Stubbs, ORAU Director of STEM Diversity Initiatives presented "Building Research Capacity at HBCUs thru Participation in Federally-funded Research Programs" at a conference sponsored by the White House Initiative on HBCUs.



- ORAU is providing capacity building support to Xavier University's (New Orleans) Office of Sponsored Programs office to increase the volume and quality of grants and contracts submissions to federal funding agencies.
- ORAU teamed with NASA Kennedy Space Center through a Space Act Agreement to create a HBCU Institutional Engagement Model to explore opportunities for research collaboration and workforce development. A model we hope to replicate for other federal agencies.

Author and Affiliations:

Laura Kopp, MBA
Oak Ridge Associated Universities (ORAU)
- Academia, non-profit
Laura.kopp@orau.org
Alexandria, VA
Presenting

Brenda Blunt, DHA, MSN, RN
Oak Ridge Associated Universities (ORAU)
- Academia, non-profit
Brenda.blunt@orau.org
Oak Ridge, TN
Presenting

