Historically Black Colleges and Universities and Minority-Serving Institutions (HBCU/MI) Science Program

Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Research and Engineering (ASD(R&E))/Basic Research

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HBCU/MI Science Program Organization and Program Alignments

• **Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Research and Engineering**
  – Chief Technology Officer
  – Oversight of DoD science and technology programs (basic research, applied research, advanced technology development)
  – Strategic direction

• **Basic Research Office**
  – Provide scientific leadership and oversight for basic research programs
  – Stimulate research and encourage support of research programs (HBCU/MI, Vannevar Bush Faculty Fellowships, Minerva, pilot programs)

• **Guidance for research priorities**
  – Overarching National and DoD priorities
  – DoD Component focus areas
HBCU/MI Science Program
Statutory Basis

• **Section 2362 of Title 10 of the United States Code**
  – Authorizes a program to provide both funding and technical assistance to covered educational institutions (HBCUs/MIs) to assist the Department in defense-related research, development, testing, and evaluation activities

• **Annual Department of Defense Appropriations Act**
  – Each year, the DoD Appropriations Act provides funds for the HBCU/MI Science Program
Our Relationship with HBCUs/MIs

• We have a multi-faceted strategy for involving HBCUs/MIs and their faculty and students in DoD basic research programs, STEM activities, and encouraging students to consider a DoD career.
  – Outreach
  – Communication
  – Technical assistance
  – Mentoring
  – Showcase opportunities, capabilities, and results

• We seek to inform HBCUs/MIs and their faculty and students of opportunities (e.g., scholarships, internships, faculty fellowships, research and equipment grants) so they can make informed decisions regarding participation.

• We also inform DoD staff of the capabilities of HBCUs/MIs to ensure their appropriate consideration in our programs and activities.
Our Relationship with HBCUs/MIs (cont’d)

• Limited budget dictates limited funding opportunities for ‘covered institutions’ (HBCU/MI as defined in 10 U.S.C. § 2362)

• HBCU/MI are encouraged to apply for any/all programs open to Institutions of Higher Education (IHE).
  – HBCU/MI investigators and students must apply to be considered
  – Must adhere to DoD business practices

• Basic Research FY 2018 request:
  – DoD: $2.2 billion
  – OSD: $141 million
• **Solicitations for competition among HBCUs/MIs**
  
  – Annual Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) for HBCUs/MIs issued by the Army Research Office on behalf of OSD, with participation by the Office of Naval Research and the Air Force Office of Scientific Research

  – Annual focus varies
    • FY 2013 and FY 2014: Equipment/instrumentation grants
    • FY 2014: Cooperative Agreements for Centers of Excellence in Autonomy, Cyber Security, and Research Data Analysis
    • FY 2015: Single-investigator research grants with student support
    • FY 2016: Equipment/instrumentation grants
    • FY 2017: (1) Single-investigator for the acquisition of equipment and instrumentation
      
      (2) FOA for STEM Scholarship Center of Excellence
    • FY 2018: Single-investigator research grants with student support (FOA closed August 10)

• **Next solicitation: June – August 2018**
• Funding Opportunities open to all higher education institutions
  • Multidisciplinary University Research Initiative (MURI) Supports multidisciplinary US college/university teams engaged in research in topical areas of DoD interest
    • Awards can range $1.25M - $1.5M / year; 3 year grants with 2 option years
    • Team size typically 6 main investigators
    • Grants managed by Services with OSD oversight
  • Defense University Research Instrumentation Program (DURIP) Provides instrumentation to US colleges/universities to support research and education in areas of defense interest
    • Awards can range $50K - $1.5M, but typically $100K - $300K with 12-month performance period
    • ~$47M total for FY2018
    • Grants managed by Services with OSD oversight
  • Vannevar Bush Faculty Fellowship Program (previously National Security Science and Engineering Faculty Fellowship (NSSEFF))
    • Fellowship enables purely scientific, basic research investigations that require sustained investment for a long period of time.
  • Minerva Research Initiative
    • Basic research in social science to inform more effective strategic and operational policy decisions within the Department of Defense (DoD) and revitalize DoD connections with academic social scientists.
    • Improve understanding of the fundamental social, cultural, and political processes that shape U.S. security interests around the world.
  • DoD Services & Agencies (Army, Navy, Air Force, DARPA, DTRA, NGA, etc.)
    • Core research program announcements

Funding Opportunity Announcements (FOAs) are posted on Grants.gov website
HBCU/MI Science Program
Events

• **Opportunity Awareness Workshop**
  - Florida A&M University, Tallahassee, FL
  - September 21-22, 2017

• **DoD HBCU/MI Webinar - November 2017**
  - Department of Education will send notifications

• **DoD HBCU/MI Workshop - June 2018**
  - Focus on writing competitive applications / proposals
Thank you!

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