

An Alliance that fosters increased African-American student awareness of and entry into computing research careers by promoting collaboration between Historically Black Colleges and Universities and R1 Universities .

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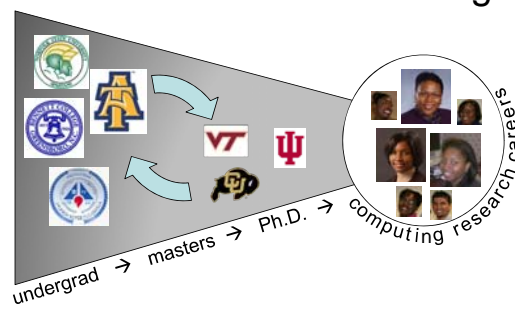
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Leveraging the dual-feeder model



Students at many colleges—particularly those with few or no graduate programs—do not get a broad sense of the nature of research or of the opportunities that graduate degrees can avail to them. Our **dual-feeder model** supports resource and information exchange among HBCUs and research institutions—towards expanding undergraduate computing opportunities in both institutional settings.

Alliance Research Model: Research Pods

Students can gain great insight into the nature of research through hands-on experiences in research-intensive environments.

- Faculty and students in HBCU partnering institutions are paired with research faculty in the R1 partners for a year-round experience in collaborative research.
- To complement this research during the academic year, undergraduate and MS level students participate in a 3-credit Research Methods course linked to their research projects.
- Students and faculty visit each other's campuses in the Spring.
- Undergrads in the pods are fully-funded for **summer residential research experiences** at the research institutions to continue the project.



Designing a repository for course outreach materials

Hands-on experiences can excite students and faculty alike about the possibilities of a research career. Our alliance is assembling a **repository of experience videos and resource-related talks** that highlight helpful knowledge and resources available to help students prepare for and succeed in their graduate experience—for example, interviews with faculty members who attended HBCUs, panels featuring current graduate students, and talks by librarians, GRE preparatory instructors, and other campus resources. Items from this repository have been adopted for use in the Research Methods and summer experience courses at the partner schools—providing hands-on views of the path toward a research career.



Encouraging collaboration through outreach activities



Face-to-face interactions help foster collaborations among participating members. Well-attended **mini-conferences** have brought together our alliance team—generally at a partner school and co-located with another relevant event. **Researcher visits** between faculty at HBCU schools and faculty at research institutions have highlighted the unique strengths of each. **Workshops and tutorials** at events like the Tapia Celebration of Diversity in Computing, the Grace Hopper Conference, and the ACM SIGCSE Conference help highlights ways to best identify and assist students who are well-suited for graduate work at partner institutions.

Scaling and sustaining through evaluation of impact

Our program includes an integrated evaluation plan—led by Lecia Barker—aimed at not only **improving implementation**, but also documenting and carefully describing results toward **identifying the most effective practices**. This careful documentation of processes and outcomes makes possible future adoption and adoption by a broader audience.