



**SUPPORT THE NOAA EDUCATION PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM/MINORITY-SERVING INSTITUTIONS (EPP/MSI)**



The program consists of four components: science centers, environmental entrepreneurship, graduate sciences program and undergraduate scholarships.

Since 2001, almost 1,700 degrees have been granted to postsecondary students in NOAA mission fields—of which 75 percent of graduates are from underrepresented minority groups. In 2016, NOAA awarded grants to City College of New York (New York, New York), Florida A&M University (Tallahassee, Florida) and Howard University (Washington, DC) to develop science research centers. The centers train students in remote sensing, environmental science, living marine resources and atmospheric science — all core scientific fields for NOAA.

At a time when the country needs more highly qualified minority students graduating with STEM degrees, the Administration proposes to cut investments in programs that help students of color attain STEM degrees.

**RECOMMENDATION**

Support **\$16 million** for the Education Partnership Program/Minority-Serving Institutions (EPP/MSI) at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

**NATIONAL SIGNIFICANCE**

The global competitiveness of the U.S. in the 21<sup>st</sup> century depends directly on the readiness of those employed in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) careers. Education institutions around the country must recruit, train and prepare a diverse STEM workforce to advance the frontiers of science and participate in the U.S. technology-based economy. When students participate in cutting-edge research activities under the guidance of the nation’s most creative scientists and engineers, the students gain up-to-date knowledge and practical, hands-on experience needed to develop into creative contributors who can engage in innovative activities throughout all sectors of society.

**BACKGROUND**

NOAA’s EPP/MSI is designed to support research and educational programs that help underrepresented students complete science programs linked to NOAA’s mission. It provides students with opportunities in applied research and experiences in atmospheric, oceanic and environmental sensing technology.

EPP/MSI Funding History	
<b>FY 2012</b>	\$13 million
<b>FY 2013</b>	\$13 million*
<b>FY 2014</b>	\$14 million
<b>FY 2015</b>	\$14 million
<b>FY 2016</b>	\$14 million
<b>FY 2017</b>	\$14 million
<b>HBCU Coalition FY 2018 Request</b>	<b>\$16 million</b>

\*Reflects across-the-board sequestration cut, pursuant to the Budget Control Act of 2011.