



SUPPORT THE NASA MINORITY UNIVERSITY RESEARCH AND EDUCATION PROGRAM (MUREP)



RECOMMENDATION

Support **\$33 million** for the Minority University Research and Education Program (MUREP) at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA).

NATIONAL SIGNIFICANCE

Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) have already compiled a strong record of producing graduates with majors in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) disciplines; HBCUs produce 24 percent of STEM undergraduate degrees awarded to African American students. By enhancing research, academic and technological capabilities at HBCUs and Minority-Serving Institutions (MSIs), the MUREP program helps students enter the STEM workforce prepared to meet the global challenges that face the country.

Yet, too many minority students lack adequate training to pursue careers in STEM fields. Just 2.7 percent of African Americans, 2.2 percent of Hispanics and Latinos, and 3.3 percent of Native Americans and Alaska Natives have earned a first university degree in the natural sciences or engineering by age 24. This critical program helps ensure that NASA can meet future workforce needs in STEM fields.

BACKGROUND

Administered through the NASA Office of Education, MUREP provides financial assistance to HBCUs and MSIs to incentivize students to earn advanced degrees in STEM fields critical to NASA's mission. More specifically, it provides research, internships, scholarships and fellowships at NASA centers for students interested in STEM.

MUREP projects are funded through multi-year grants. These projects address the difficulties associated with recruiting and retaining scientific talent. Projects offer opportunities for both undergraduate and graduate students in NASA-related research and mission specific technology development. Faculty research and curriculum improvement initiatives are also eligible for funding.

For example, a team of investigators from five HBCUs (Prairie View A&M University, Prairie View, Texas; Texas Southern University, Houston, Texas; Savannah State University, Savannah, Georgia; Tougaloo College Tougaloo, Mississippi; and Jarvis Christian College Hawkins, Texas) was the first selected team of HBCUs to send a research payload to the International Space Station. This project – the culmination of months of work and collaborations among the investigators and the NASA Johnson Space Center – is the result of NASA's consistent investment in research centers established at HBCUs and MSIs.

MUREP Funding History	
FY 2012	\$30 million
FY 2013	\$29 million*
FY 2014	\$30 million
FY 2015	\$32 million
FY 2016	\$32 million
FY 2017	\$32 million
HBCU Coalition FY 2018 Request	\$33 million

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