

*The National Academies of*  
**SCIENCES • ENGINEERING • MEDICINE**

**POLICY AND GLOBAL AFFAIRS DIVISION**

*Board on Higher Education and Workforce*

**Dillard University Virtual Town Hall: Successes in STEM Education, Research, and Workforce Preparedness**

**AGENDA**

Tuesday, February 22, 2022 | 1:00pm-3:30 EST (12:00pm-2:30pm CST)

**Webcast Live Here: <https://www.nationalacademies.org/event/02-22-2022/dillard-university-virtual-town-hall-successes-in-stem-education-research-and-workforce-preparedness>**

The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine (NASEM) and Dillard University invite you to join their STEM focused virtual town hall. More than ever, the world understands the need for diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) in the STEM fields. Dillard University continues to be an engine of equity and inclusion by preparing students for the workforce and other opportunities in STEM. Dillard, a private, historically black university in New Orleans, Louisiana, has remained committed to providing students with a quality four-year liberal arts education. While at Dillard, students conduct research with their professors and mentors that often results in peer-reviewed publications, patents, and career opportunities. Our students come from all walks of life, and their successes have allowed them to go on to complete advanced and terminal degrees and enter the STEM workforce.

During this town hall event, you will hear from faculty and leaders about strategies that enable our students to enter and succeed in graduate school and STEM professions. Dillard faculty will share success stories about innovative training and research initiatives that ensure that students persist and graduate in STEM fields. You will also hear alumni describe how Dillard, through mentored educational and research experiences, accelerated their readiness for the graduate school and the workforce. We are open to collaborations, partnerships with private, federal agencies and other universities to provide additional opportunities for students.

This event is one in a series of town halls NASEM is conducting in collaboration with Minority Serving Institutions (MSIs) to (1) promote the findings of the 2019 National Academies report, *[Minority Serving Institutions: America's Underutilized Resource for Strengthening the STEM Workforce](#)*, (2) hear how MSIs are working to advance STEM workforce preparation, education, and research capacity, and (3) foster new discussions and solutions around these issues.

The audience will have an opportunity to engage with speakers during Q&A.

**1:00-1:20PM    WELCOME**

Introduction from the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine  
Dr. Walter Kimbrough, *President, Dillard University*

**1:20-1:35    REMARKS FROM U.S. DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE LEADERSHIP (RECORDED)**

The Honorable Dr. Kathleen Hicks, *Deputy Secretary of Defense*  
The Honorable Ms. Heidi Shyu, *Under Secretary of Defense for Research and Engineering*

**1:35-2:20    PANEL: DILLARD UNIVERSITY PROGRAM SHOWCASE**

1. Dr. Ruby Broadway, *Professor of Biology, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc. Distinguished Professor Endowed Chair and Director of MARC U\*STAR*
2. Dr. Eric Buckles, *Dean, College of Arts & Sciences*
3. Dr. Abdalla Darwish, *Physics Professor, Presidential Professor, SPIE fellow*

Moderated by Mr. Theodore Callier, *Asst. Vice President for Research and Sponsored Programs*

45 minutes: panel presentations followed by 15 minutes of Q&A  
10 minutes per presentation

**2:20-3:20**

**PANEL: ALUMNI EXPERIENCES AND REFLECTIONS**

1. Justin Matthews, *School of Engineering, Georgia Tech, Former DSL/Griffiss Institute Alumnus*
2. Dr. Kelly Nash, *Associate Dean for Faculty Success, College of Sciences and Professor, Department of Physics and Astronomy, University of Texas at San Antonio; Former PREP and SSA Alumnus*
3. Grace Johnson, *Department of Public Health, Louisiana State University Health Science Center; Former GEOPATH Alumnus*
4. Latisha Franklin, *Pennsylvania State University (State College, PA); Former MARC Alumnus* (video prepared remarks)
5. Dr. Trivia Frazier, *Co-Founder, President, and CEO, Obatala Sciences, Inc.*
6. Olabimpe Olafuyi, *Ph.D. student in Computational Chemistry, Jackson State University*

Moderated by Dr. Lovell Agwaramgbo, *Professor and Chair, School of S.T.E.M.*

60 minutes: panel presentations followed by 15 minutes of Q&A

5-8 minutes per presentation

**3:20-3:30PM**

**CLOSING REMARKS**

Summary remarks from Dr. Yolanda Page, *Vice President for Academic Affairs, Dillard University*

**3:30 PM**

**ADJOURN**

*This activity is co-hosted by the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine and Dillard University, with the support of the Department of Defense HBCU/MI Program.*

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**NOTES**

- For more information on this event: <https://www.nationalacademies.org/event/02-22-2022/dillard-university-virtual-town-hall-successes-in-stem-education-research-and-workforce-preparedness>
- This meeting will be livestreamed and archived for future viewing at the link provided at the top of this document, along with presentation materials.
- Public participants may submit questions for speakers online while viewing the webcast.
- Full speaker bios can be found here under "Meeting Materials":  
<https://www.nationalacademies.org/event/02-22-2022/dillard-university-virtual-town-hall-successes-in-stem-education-research-and-workforce-preparedness>