

Virtual Town Hall: Building Research Partnerships between DoD University Affiliated Research Centers and Historically Black Colleges and Universities and Minority Institutions

Wednesday, March 23, 2022 | TIME: 1:00pm-3:30pm ET

<https://www.nationalacademies.org/event/03-23-2022/building-research-partnerships-between-the-department-of-defense-university-affiliated-research-centers-and-hbcus-mis>

Since 1996, the Department of Defense (DoD) has approved the University Affiliated Research Centers (UARC) designation for 14 university research centers based on the request of their DoD sponsors. UARCs operate in well-defined areas of technical expertise known as core competencies to advance DoD operations via application of leading edge research, development or engineering. The commitment to developing and sustaining a long-term strategic relationship with the DoD and its tasking sponsors is a key attribute of a UARC. Every five years the UARC and DoD sponsor conduct a rigorous comprehensive review to evaluate if the DoD requirements still warrant the continuation of the UARC designation.

UARCs are required to operate in the public interest in a manner befitting their special relationship with DoD. UARCs provide independent and objective advice to the government, unencumbered by obligations to prioritize shareholder value. UARCs are expected to maintain robust freedom from conflicts of interest and other practices that separate them from the traditional relationship between DoD and academia. In recognition of the value of a long-term strategic relationship, the obligation to maintain essential capabilities, and a prohibition from competing with industry, DoD permits the award of sole-source contracts to UARCs under the authority of 10 U.S.C. 2304(c)(3)(B).

This event is one in a series of town halls the National Academies 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. This specific town hall is designed to foster new discussions and stimulate collaborations between UARCs and HBCUs/MIs.

Session Objectives:

- Understand the purpose and history of the DoD UARCs
- Discuss specific UARC research areas with potential for research partnerships
- Identify best practices for research and development partnerships between UARCs and academic institutions

1:00-1:10 OPENING REMARKS (10 min)

1. Welcome and Introduction from the National Academies of Science, Engineering and Medicine
2. Hon. David Honey – Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Research and Engineering (*pre-recorded remarks*)

1:10-1:30 DISCUSSION I – OUSD(R&E) LEADERSHIP (20 min)

Discussion goals: Discuss the history of the UARC program; discuss the importance of UARCs and the tenets of the relationship with the Department; discuss the policy and oversight required for UARCs; discuss the relationship between the HBCU/MI program and the UARC program, and future plans for collaboration

1. Dr. Joan Fuller – Director, DoD FFRDC/UARC Policy Office
2. Ms. Evelyn Kent – Director, DoD HBCU/MI Program and Outreach

Moderated by Dr. Nathaniel Boyd, AAAS Science and Technology Policy Fellow

5 minutes per presentation followed by 10 minutes of Q&A

1:30-1:50 DISCUSSION II – PRIMARY SPONSOR LEADERSHIP (20 min)

Discussion goals: Discuss the importance of the UARC program to the primary sponsor; discuss the nature of the relationship of the UARC to the DoD sponsor; discuss the administrative requirements and duties of the UARC administrative office

1. Dr. Lisa Troyer – Physical Sciences Division Chief, DEVCOM ARL-ARO
2. Mr. Byron Rose – Deputy Director, Navy UARC Office

Moderated by Dr. Rie Sasaki, AAAS Science and Technology Policy Fellow

5 minutes per presentation followed by 10 minutes of Q&A

1:50-2:35 DISCUSSION III – UARC LEADERSHIP (45 min)

Discussion goals: University leaders discuss the importance of the UARC program to deliver mission-critical research; discuss UARC core competencies/research areas; discuss partnerships and subcontract details for interested collaborators

1. Dr. Erin Fitzgerald – Consortium Director, Applied Research Laboratory for Intelligence & Security, University of Maryland
2. Dr. Margo Edwards – Director, University of Hawaii, Manoa Applied Research Lab
3. Dr. James Hudgens – Director, Georgia Tech Research Institute and SVP, Georgia Tech

Moderated by Dr. Cindy Achat-Mendes, AAAS Science and Technology Policy Fellow

10 minutes per presentation followed by 15 minutes of Q&A

2:35-3:20 DISCUSSION IV – HBCU/MI LEADERSHIP (45 min)

Discussion goals: Discuss current HBCU/MI research collaborations with UARCs; Expand on the research environment at HBCUs/MIs; discuss challenges with partnering with DoD; discuss success stories partnering with DoD; discuss what the institutions need from DoD to better access partnership and contracting opportunities

1. Dr. Victor McCrary – National Science Board Vice Chair and Vice President for Research and Graduate Programs, University of District of Columbia
2. Dr. Willie May – Vice President for Research and Economic Development, Morgan State University
3. Dr. Gloria Washington – Assistant Professor, Howard University

Moderated by Dr. Nathaniel Boyd, AAAS *Science and Technology Policy Fellow*

10 minutes per presentation followed by 15 minutes of Q&A

3:20-3:30 CLOSING REMARKS (10 min)

1. Closing summary from the National Academies of Science, Engineering and Medicine

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