

**Workshop #1**  
**Building Health and Climate Research Capacity in the U.S. Gulf Coast:  
Elevating Minority-Serving Institutions as Key Partners**  
**Agenda**

University of Houston Downtown  
One Main Building, Room A300  
1 Main Street  
Houston, TX 77002

---

**Objectives**

- Improve awareness of applied research opportunities that address climate change effects on human health, inform and improve public health data systems, and enhance community resilience to climate and environmental stressors.
  - Explore the landscape of current MSI and HBCU participation and competitiveness in community-engaged research.
  - Identify institutional and systemic barriers encountered by Gulf Region MSIs and HBCUs.
- 

**Tuesday  
October 29, 2024**

8:00 – 9:05 AM

**Registration and Breakfast**

9:05 – 9:15 AM

Welcoming Remarks

Mr. Daniel Burger  
Program Director of Health and Resilience, Gulf Research Program  
National Academy of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine

---

9:15 – 9:30 AM

Workshop Purpose and Context

Dr. Francisca Flores  
Program Officer, Gulf Research Program  
National Academy of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine

---

9:30 – 10:15 AM

Keynote Speaker: MSI/HBCU Community-Engaged Climate and Health Research in U.S Gulf Coast: What's the current status?

Description: This presentation will discuss the current state of MSI climate and health research in the Gulf region. This presentation may explore types of minority serving and research-engaged institutions in the Gulf, mechanisms for funding, funders, and research activities.

Facilitator:  
[Dr. Bernece Herbert](#)

---

---

Department Chair & Associate Professor, Urban & Regional Planning  
Jackson State University

Keynote Speaker:

[Dr. Robert Bullard](#)

Professor, Founder and Director

Bullard Center for Environmental & Climate Justice

Texas State University

---

10:15 – 10:30 AM

**Break**

10:30 – 11:45 AM

Panel: MSI Perspectives on Climate Impacts on Communities and Health in the Gulf

Description: This panel seeks to bridge the gap between academic institutions and the communities they serve. The panelists will discuss how the positioning of Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) and Minority Serving Institutions (MSIs), particularly their locations in disaster-prone areas and their deep community connections, enables these institutions to conduct robust community-engaged environmental health research.

Moderator:

[Dr. Shamarial Roberson](#)

President of Health and Human Services

Indelible Consulting

Speakers:

[Mr. Curtis Brown, MA](#)

Visiting Professor, Research Institute for Social Equity

L. Douglas Wilder School of Government and Public Affairs,

Virginia Commonwealth University

[Mr. E. Benjamin Money, Jr., MPH](#)

Senior Vice President, Population Health

National Association of Community Health Centers

[Dr. Philip Keiser](#)

Associate Dean for Public Health Practice

Professor of Global Health

Local Health Authority

University of Texas Medical Branch

---

11:45 – 12:45 PM

**Working Lunch**

12:45 – 2:00 PM

Panel: MSI and HBCU Institutional Research Expertise, Capacities, and Infrastructure

---

---

Description: This panel will explore the multifaceted research capacities and infrastructures at HBCUs and MSIs, focusing on funding options, workforce and research program development, and the impact of R1/Non-R1 status. It will highlight the unique issues faced by public and private institutions, particularly those affected by funding and political pressures.

Moderator:

[Dr. Paul Tchounwou](#)

Dean, School of Computer, Mathematical & Natural Sciences  
Morgan State University

Speakers:

[Mr. Ashley Davis, MS, CEM, FPEM](#)

Emergency Management Director  
Assistant Vice President for Student Affairs  
Florida A&M University

[Dr. Abigail Newsome](#)

Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs  
Mississippi Valley State University

[Dr. Briana Hauff Salas](#)

Associate Professor of Environmental Science  
Our Lady of the Lake University

[Dr. ConSandra McNeil](#)

Interim Vice President of Research and Economic Development  
Jackson State University

---

2:00 – 3:15 PM

Panel: Exploring Opportunities for Building Research Capacity in Climate, Health, and Resilience in Gulf

Objective/Description: This panel will present current research gaps in climate, health, and resilience research, the assets-based contributions of MSIs, and next steps in application. The session will flow through three phases, aimed at progressively advancing the discussion from gap identification to actionable strategies for securing resources.

Moderator:

[Dr. Erin Lynch](#)

President  
Quality Education for Minorities (QEM) Network

Speakers:

[Dr. Kenya Goodson](#)

---

---

Research Consultant  
Minority Health & Health Equity Research Center  
Dillard University

[Dr. Rebecca Efroymsen](#)

Distinguished Scientist  
Oak Ridge National Laboratory

[Dr. Jean Shin](#)

Deputy Director  
NIH Office of the Director  
Office of the Chief Officer for Scientific Workforce Diversity (COSWD)

---

3:15 – 3:30 PM

**Break**

3:30 – 4:40 PM

Breakout Sessions: MSI and HBCU Assets Mapping and Needs  
Prioritization

Objective: Capture how workshop participants from MSIs, HBCUs, and other organizations view their assets contributing to research opportunities that address climate change effects on human health, inform and improve public health data systems, and enhance community resilience to climate and environmental stressors.

To join virtually:

<https://nasem.zoom.us/j/99121066170?pwd=scimxbITITyuWLb08SYP7agYPPDvaN.1>

Meeting ID: 991 2106 6170  
Password: 180776

---

4:40 – 5:00 PM

Closing Speakers

[Dr. Shamarial Roberson](#)

President of Health and Human Services  
Indelible Consulting

[Dr. Berniece Herbert](#)

Department Chair & Associate Professor, Urban & Regional Planning  
Jackson State University

---

5:00 – 6:15 PM

**Reception**

---