Study Title: A Model to Explain the Institutional and Student Characteristics Related to STEM Baccalaureate Graduates from Historically Black Colleges and Universities Who Earn Doctoral Degrees

Q1: What is the purpose of the study?
A1: This study aims to understand learning environments that enable undergraduate students to thrive and subsequently go on to attain doctoral degrees in science and engineering (S&E).

Q2: How will institutions participate in this study?
A2: Faculty Site Liaisons
Faculty Site Liaisons will participate in interviews and will support the research team to:
• Identify influencer students to support recruitment activities for student surveys and focus groups
• Identify and recruit students with STEM majors to participate in the survey
• Identify, recruit, and facilitate engagement and interaction among STEM students in virtual focus groups
• Coordinate a time and location for the virtual focus groups
• Support the administration of research incentives

Junior and Senior STEM Students
Students will be asked to:
• Complete a survey about their experiences
• Participate in virtual focus groups

Q3: How will students benefit?
A3: • Two student influencers at each campus will receive $25.00 gift cards
• Student focus group participants will receive a $25.00 gift card
• Student influencers, focus group participants, and survey respondents will gain exposure and contribute to a study funded by National Science Foundation, which will serve as a point of reference as they pursue support for their own future research projects

Q4: How will faculty site liaisons benefit?
A4: Faculty site liaisons will receive a $1,000 stipend that will be administered in two installments—one $500.00 in the fourth quarter of year 1 and one $500.00 in the fourth quarter of year 2. If a liaison is unable to complete a year, we will prorate her or his stipend and engage a replacement. In addition, the research team will post profiles of all faculty site liaisons on our project website to highlight their involvement with this study. Participating in this project will also afford an opportunity for faculty to become familiar with working with an NSF-funded grant and inform their own research agenda as they consider pursuing funding opportunities.

Q5: What is the timeframe for this project?
A5: We plan to undertake core tasks with partnering HBCUs between December 1, 2018 – September 30, 2020.

December, 2018 - March, 2019
• Survey Sampling Support
• Advising as Needed
April, 2019 - December, 2019
  • Student Survey Administration Support
  • Advising as Needed

January, 2020 - September, 2020
  • Student Focus Group Coordination
  • Faculty Interviews
  • Advising as Needed

Q6: Has this project been assessed and approved by an Institutional Review Board (IRB)?
A6: This research project has been assessed and approved by the IRB at American Institutes for Research. Please see the IRB determination letter on the main project page.

Q7: How do I learn more about this opportunity?
A7: Please email Mercy Mugo at mmugo@qem.org.

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