



**NSF Project
Reporting Format**

EPIIC Grant Annual Report

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2023-2024

Accomplishments

You have the option of selecting “nothing to report” in this section.

What are the major goals of the project?

The major goal of the HBCU-ASPIRE project is to remove research barriers and develop robust, collaborative, efficient, and innovative research infrastructure at the four participating HBCUs (Coppin State, Kentucky state, Harris-Stowe and Florida Memorial Universities). These goals will be accomplished by institutionalizing best practices for research and innovation at these universities, developing physical and human infrastructure that increases sustainability, and collaboration with R1 institutions, industries, and state and governmental agencies.

What was accomplished under these goals (you must provide information for at least one of the 4 categories below)?

Major Activities:

One of the key activities in the first year of the project was to introduce the Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative (CITI Program) at Coppin State University. Faculty and Students are excited about the CITI program and they are enrolled to take the various courses. The program is being managed by the of the office of Sponsored Programs and Research, Institutional Review Board (IRB) and the Principal Investigator of the project. foster integrity and professional advancement of their learners.

The other key activity we planned was to introduce an electronic research administration (eRa) software to advance our research administration infrastructure. We closely worked with a vendor to acquire Kualii and completed all the necessary requirements to introduce it the year 2 of the project.

We provided faculty research development opportunity for faculty and students of the Department of Natural Sciences during Summer 2024. This mentored program focused on key research questions development strategies and execution of interdisciplinary experiments dealing with environmental problems.

The PI and Co-PIs attended the first annual EPIIC project meeting of leaders hosted by Florida Memorial University in April 2024.

What opportunities for training and professional development has the project provided?

Grant writing and post-award management were identified as key challenges in Coppin's research endeavor and the EPIIC project provided resources and training opportunities for faculty. Through a collaborative initiative with QEM (Quality Education for Minorities), five faculty members are taking training on grant writing with the expectation that they will be submitting a well-written and peer-reviewed proposals, In addition, the project has completed the preparations for a series of research ethics and award management trainings for faculty and staff of the University.

How have the results been disseminated to communities of interest?

The project is in the process of developing a dedicated EPIIC website to disseminate the lessons learned from the project across all participating institutions. During the first annual project meeting held at Florida Memorial University, members shared their experiences and lesson with members of the 4 collaborating Universities.

What do you plan to do during the next reporting period to accomplish the goals?

In the next project reporting period, we plan to fully introduce Quali and execute our research administration through this electronic research administration software. In addition, we plan to organize a series of faculty and staff research capacity development workshops to ensure that faculty is submitting a competitive grant proposal to state and federal agencies. We also plan to grant release time opportunities for faculty to write winning research proposals. To foster collaborations among EPIIC participating institutions, Coppin will host the second annual project meeting in April 2025. To disseminate our project products and share lessons learned, we will fully launch the EPIIC- ASPIRE website.