

ASCEND

ASCEND stands for **A Student-Centered Entrepreneurship Development Training Model**. The purpose of the ASCEND program is to strengthen Morgan State's infrastructure for training in and conducting biomedical research, with the ultimate goal of training undergraduate students to become outstanding biomedical researchers.

Morgan State University was awarded **\$23.3 million** from the National Institutes of Health to establish the ASCEND program. Only 10 awards were given out nationally, and fewer than 10% of applications were funded.



ASCEND uses a student-centered **entrepreneurship** (as opposed to apprenticeship) training model to develop students' health research skills. These young trainees will be empowered to help **grow Maryland's economy** through the creation of new businesses, new jobs, reduction of health care costs, and improvement in health for all Marylanders.

ASCEND will partner with institutions such as **Johns Hopkins University**, the **University of Maryland** and the **NIH Intramural Program** to expand student training opportunities and foster faculty research collaborations.

STUDENT OPPORTUNITIES:

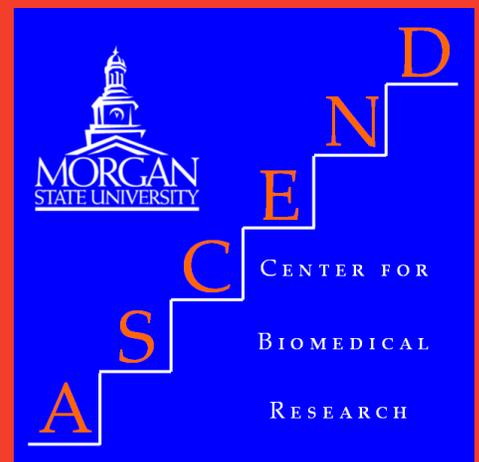
- ⇒ **Student Research Center** (SRC): a vibrant research environment run by students, where they can exchange research ideas while surrounded by peers and near-peer mentors.
- ⇒ **Summer Research Institute** (SRI): an eight-week program where students participate in a series of innovative seminars and workshops that will provide an overview of health and biomedical disciplines; training in the scientific method and basic research methodology; and skills for developing a team-based research proposal.
- ⇒ **ASCEND Scholars**: will undertake a curriculum designed to increase mathematical skills, and develop critical thinking and communication skills; also will participate in extramural research experiences designed to provide skills for successful transition into a research-intensive graduate school program in the biomedical, behavioral or social sciences.

FACULTY OPPORTUNITIES:

- ⇒ Pilot Research Projects
- ⇒ Conference Travel Grants
- ⇒ Sabbatical funding
- ⇒ New Course Development Grants
- ⇒ Course Redesign Grants
- ⇒ Purchase of Shared Equipment

UNIVERSITY BENEFITS:

- ⇒ Creating two Active Learning Centers
- ⇒ Purchasing state-of-the-art educational software
- ⇒ Subscribing to important library databases
- ⇒ Strengthening laboratory resources
- ⇒ Engaging with the community



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