



Institute for Urban Research
Morgan State University
Annual Report
2015-2016



An aerial photograph of the Morgan State University campus. In the foreground, a multi-lane road runs diagonally from the bottom right towards the center. To the left of the road is a parking lot with several cars parked. Behind the parking lot are several brick buildings, including a large, multi-story red brick building in the background. A yellow rectangular text box with a black border is positioned in the upper left quadrant of the image, containing the title. A semi-transparent white text box is located in the center-left, containing a paragraph of text.

Institute for Urban Research Morgan State University

In its 38th year as one of the few urban research institutes at a historically Black university, the Institute for Urban Research (IUR) continues to empower urban communities through *Intervention, Understanding and Research.*” The IUR’s mandate to address social issues within the Baltimore region and beyond is in tandem with the mission of Morgan State University (MSU) being Maryland’s designated public urban university.



The Institute for Urban Research at Morgan State University was established in 1978 under the provisions of the Maryland State Legislature to operate as a component of the School of Graduate Studies and Research. The Institute has a core staff that includes a director, researchers, research associates and an administrative assistant.

The researchers' training, experience and expertise complement the projected focus of the Institute as well as the urban mission of the University. Present members of the Institute specialize in the areas of psychology, sociology, demographic analysis, methodology and statistical techniques, city and regional planning, mapping and education. The staff also includes graduate assistants and doctoral fellows. They undertake research, compiling statistical data, land use surveying, etc., make presentations to public and private agencies, as well as community groups.

The Institute engages in many forms of action research, academic, and community service activities. It provides technical assistance to Morgan State University, and the Baltimore urban community. It also allows research opportunities for faculty and students of Morgan State University. Funded grants provide opportunities for outside researchers to be hired on a contractual basis to assist in fulfilling the mandates stipulated in the grants.

The Institute continues to collaborate with numerous colleges and universities in holding conferences, seminars, and educational forums.

The following are accomplishments for the IUR during 2015 and 2016.

2015-2016 YEAR

Received and managed grant of \$42,930 from the Baltimore City Department of Housing and Community Development.

Developed community profiles for the Upton Community in West Baltimore and Brooklyn/Curtis Bay community in South Baltimore.

Planned and implemented fundraising workshops that assisted representatives of community based organizations in their development efforts.

\$7500 received from the Enterprise Community Partners, Inc., for demographic profile of the Cherry Hill Community

Continuous development of the GIS database mapping using Baltimore City demographic data for inclusion in the Neighborhood Information System database

Continuous collaboration with other MSU faculties on research relating to depressive symptoms, its association with stress and locus of control in African American and White Communities.

Completed data collection for Phase 1 of the Meditation and Cognitive Performance study



Completed “Mental Health in America” Issue Guide for *Kettering Foundation* and *National Issues Forum*

Created and published first of four African Heritage Playing Cards deck.

Editorship of Greater Baltimore Urban League, *State of Black Baltimore*

Worked closely to advise curriculum development and evaluation for the Greater Baltimore Urban League’s (GBUL) Saturday Leadership Program (SLP), a college readiness and youth leadership development program for 9th through 12th grade students enrolled in BCPS.

Proposal Name: “Baltimore Families Study”

Principal Investigators: Thomas J. Espenshade, Ph.D. (Princeton U.) and Tracy R. Rone, Ph.D.

Amount Requested: \$473,019

Amount funded: \$0

Funder: The Abell Foundation

Proposal Name: “Strengthening Research-Practice Partnerships, Baltimore Education Research Consortium”

Awardee: Baltimore Education Research Consortium

Amount requested: \$1 million

Amount rewarded: \$1 million; \$356,438 awarded to Morgan State University through a sub-award

Funder: Spencer Foundation

- Co-Director of Research, Baltimore Education Research Consortium
- Guest reviewer: American Journal of Education, Journal of Education for Students Placed at Risk
- Baltimore City Grade Level Reading Steering Committee
- Johns Hopkins University, Center for Adolescent Health, Community Advisory Board

State of Black Baltimore (Academic paper): In collaboration with Dr. Linda Loubert of the Economics Department, Ms. Churchill co-wrote an academic manuscript for peer review publication, “Understanding the importance of the Civil Rights Movement in Baltimore by exploring jobs and education.” Ms. Churchill’s contribution to the publication was statistical analysis and GIS mapping.

Morgan Community Mile Data Tracking: Using Geographic Information Systems and demographic data, developed a process to identify which communities should be targeted and prioritized for outreach and intervention by the Morgan Community Mile Initiative. Also developed a data “dashboard” which can be used to track community-level indicators across time to track improvement and accountability during the duration of the Community Mile initiative.

United Workers (In-Kind): Ms. Churchill was asked by the United Workers human-rights labor organization to provide GIS mapping support for use in their staff training. In-kind services included approximately 8 hours of consultation and 32 hours of map creation.



2015 YEAR

Submitted grant proposal and received another round of funding for \$42,930 from the Baltimore City Department of Housing and Community Development for the 2015-2016 year.

Undertaking data collection towards the publication of the Washington Village Community profile.

Representing the School of Graduate Studies on the MSU's Faculty Liaison & internationalization Steering Committee.

Planning and implementation of Community development workshops/forums

Assisting in data collection for a comprehensive needs assessment for the Cherry Hill Community.

Began Phase 2 of Meditation and Cognitive Performance Study

Completed "End of Life Decisions" Issue Guide for *Kettering Foundation* and *National Issues Forum*

Finishing research on *The History of African American Shriners (1994 to Present)*

Completing research on Prince Hall Freemasons and the African Lodge #1 of Boston Massachusetts

Durham, R.E, Bell-Ellwanger, J., Connolly, F., Howard-Robinson, K., Olson, L., & Rone, T. March 2015. University-District Partnership Research to Understand College Readiness Among Baltimore City Students. *Journal of Education for Students Placed At Risk (JESPAR)* Vol. 20, Iss. 1-2.

Moderator, "Discover Your Power": A Domestic Violence Conference on Bystander Intervention, Bowie State University, Bowie, MD, April 10, 2015.

Presenter, "Overcoming Unconscious Bias and Barriers: An Anthropological Perspective". Biophysical Society Annual Meeting, Baltimore, MD, February 9, 2015.



GRANTS: APPLICATIONS SUBMITTED, RECEIVED, PENDING

Proposal Name: African American Anthropologists: From the Margin to the Center

Principal Investigators: Tracy R. Rone, Ph.D. and Kalfani Ture' (MSU Sociology & Anthropology)

Amount requested: \$10,000

Amount funded: Decision pending

Funder: Maryland Humanities Council

Status: Initial submission invited for full submission in 2nd round; proposal currently in 2nd round review

Proposal Name: "One Day at a Time: Illuminating the Impact of Housing, Food, Economic Insecurity on Chronic Absenteeism"

Principal Investigator: Tracy R. Rone, Ph.D.

Amount requested: \$100,000

Amount funded: \$0

Funder: Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

Academic Advisement: Served as a member on a thesis committee for a graduate student completing his Masters of City and Regional Planning. Using my public health background, offered advisement on data analysis and approached to studying food security in an urban setting.

*** Consultation to Samaritan Ministry of Greater Washington (\$15,000):** Ms. Churchill was contracted by a faith-based non-profit agency to perform a program evaluation of the agency's Net Step Program, which provides employment training and housing referral services to homeless and disenfranchised adults in the metropolitan Washington DC area.





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