

M O R G A N S T A T E U N I V E R S I T Y

RESEARCH NEWS & REVIEWS

Division of Research and Economic Development



The New D-RED

The Morgan State University (MSU) Division of Research and Economic Development (D-RED) aims to be a strategic partner for your research endeavors. Established in the Spring of 2013 as one of MSU's newest organizational units, we have continuously evolved to meet our stakeholders' needs. The D-RED understands that a strong, focused research administration is critical, therefore we are developing a structured approach to align our research operations and maximize our effectiveness.

We encourage feedback from the MSU research community. Please let us know how we are doing.

- **How to submit comments/suggestions:**
DRED.feedback@morgan.edu
- **How to contact the Research Administrators**
Pre-Award or Post-Award Departments:
sponsored.programs@morgan.edu



In an effort to streamline our operations and become a paperless society, D-RED will be using DocuSign.

Please stay tuned as we begin the implementation process in the Summer 2019.

The following forms are now available as electronic documents:

- Internal Routing Form (IRF)
- Non-Disclosure Agreement (NDA)

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Vice President's Corner

The D-RED overarching goal is quite simple:
To align research operations in order to maximize research strategy. Since 2013, our momentum has remained quite steady, & with our recent Carnegie Classification R2 Research Classification ratings, we are committed to helping the university maintain a level of high research activity. To support our commitment, we have adopted the following principles:

Faculty Engagement - in cutting edge research

Student Participation - in faculty research & innovative activities that enables students to become critical thinkers

Involvement with the Community - by having their needs drive a reasonable portion of our research through **market pull**

Technology Transfer & Creation of New businesses in the community through **Lab to market** initiatives which spawns innovations to benefit the local community and region

The D-RED overall contributions to the university's 10-year strategic plan is quite evident. We will continue to strive to meet major milestones as Maryland's Preeminent Public Urban Doctoral Research University.

**D-RED makes this real by
 facilitating & encouraging increased:**

FACULTY ENGAGEMENT

STUDENT PARTICIPATION

INVOLVEMENT WITH THE COMMUNITY

TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER & CREATION OF NEW BUSINESSES



Dr. Willie E. May
 V.P. for Research & Economic
 Development

Morgan State University is the premier public urban research university in Maryland, known for its excellence in teaching, intensive research, effective public service & community engagement. MSU's vision & mission statements as well as its core institutional values are consistent with the University's Carnegie Foundation classification as a doctoral research university & are intended to direct Morgan's strategic growth over the next decade.

Core Values

Excellence
 Integrity
 Respect
 Diversity
 Innovation
 Leadership

Innovation Community Spotlight



Dr. Viji Sitther

Dr. Viji Sitther, Associate Professor of Biology, has developed an innovative method to produce an environmentally-friendly biofuel/ fuel from a cyanobacterium that uses naturally available sea water and the sun's energy. Dr. Sitther's eco-friendly & cost-effective technology targets local, state, and federal agencies that are interested in biofuel alternatives. Since joining Morgan in 2012, Dr. Sitther has made tremendous headway in her cutting-edge research techniques. Her innovative discoveries have resulted in four US patent applications, as well as three peer-reviewed publications in 2017-18. More recently, she identified the prospects of transitioning her innovation to large-scale production. Throughout the course of her research, she has identified opportunities in clean energy & high value bio-products. This data was collected through interviews conducted through a TEDCO I-CORPS workshop, market research with fuel producers, refiners, distributors, retailers, consumers, and government experts.

Dr. Sitther's research, not only enabled her to train several undergraduate and graduate students but it also led to a new start-up company named "HaloCyTech".

HaloCyTech, will broaden the prospect of new initiatives to explore various biomolecules that can be obtained from the cyanobacterium. This will lead to pathways in non-energy industries including pharmaceuticals, dyes, nutritional supplements, food, bioremediation, cosmetics, biofuel production and other value-added products.

“ Her innovative discoveries have resulted in four US patent applications and three peer-reviewed publications in 2017-18 alone. ”



Dr. Sitther with Research Associate, (Behnam Tabatabai) & PhD candidate, (Somayeh Gharai Fahabad)

First Implementation of Morgan's Conflict of Interest Policy/Procedures

The Maryland State law encourages institutions of higher education to promote economic development and increase technology. Morgan's 2011-2021 Strategic Plan outlines a plan to launch 2-5 new start-ups. To date, Dr. Sitther is one of Morgan's first faculty members to initiate a new start-up that led to commercialization. HaloCyTech is the first Morgan State University start-up company to implement the Morgan's Conflict of Interest Procedures.

The Office of Technology Transfer



The Inaugural 2018 Innovation of the Year Awardees

The Inaugural Innovation of the Year Awards program was created by the Office of Technology Transfer as a means to celebrate campus-wide innovation & to recognize the contributions of the Morgan community & the progression of the university through innovative advancements.

Life Sciences: Development of a Novel Diagnostic Test for Early Detection of Pancreatic Cancer. Dr. Simon Nyaga, developed a novel diagnostic test for early detection of pancreatic cancer. The proposed test has the potential to save or prolong hundreds of thousands of lives.

Physical Sciences: Ultra-Clean Mobile Combustor for Waste Biomass. Dr. Seong Lee, developed a combustor technology that has the potential to significantly improve the economics of bio-waste to energy operations.

Information Sciences: Stormwater Utility Management System (SUMS). The Stormwater Utility Management System (or “SUMS”) was developed by Drs. James Hunter, Dong Hee Kang, and Instructional Laboratory Associate Hye Jeong Lee, to provide municipalities the software & data management tools for municipal stormwater utilities. SUMS will consider factors that contribute to both stormwater quantity and quality, so stormwater utility fees are a reflection of the related activity that occurs on the landscape.

Student Innovator(s) of the Year: Xuejun Qian and Raghulkumar Chandrasekaran were recognized for their contributions related to the CykloBurn System, under Dr. Seong Lee's direction.

Instructional Innovator of the Year:

Dr. Richard Damoah was recognized for his exemplary innovative instruction & improved learning outcomes for students in the Physics department & the greater community.

Staff Innovator of the Year:

Aisha Odera successfully developed, managed, and piloted an automated mechanism in Banner (university-wide database) to reinstate students who were dropped for nonpayment into their original classes. This enhancement was fully utilized for the Spring 2018 drop & reinstatement process.

Patent Awardee: Metal-Assisted & Microwave-Accelerated Evaporative Crystallization, U.S. Patent 9,243,017 - Inventor: Dr. Kadir Aslan

Patent Awardee: System & Method for Lighting & Building Occupant Tracking, U.S. Patent 9,973,275 - Inventors: Dr. Kofi Nyarko, Christian Emiyah, & Samuel Mbugua

D-RED Research Units

ASCEND



Farin Kamangar, MD, PhD
ASCEND, Program Director

ASCEND, “A Student-Centered Entrepreneurship Development Training Model to Increase Diversity in the Biomedical Research Workforce.” The primary mission is to develop and evaluate new methods of health-related research training for undergraduate

students, and to further diversify the biomedical research workforce. ASCEND is funded by the National Institute of Health (NIH) whose primary goals are to fund programs that are novel, sustainable, flexible, and that have measurable outcomes.

Included among ASCEND's efforts is a community-based participatory research (CBPR) initiative, which brings the campus and community together to conduct collaborative research. In CBPR, the community is empowered to identify their own problems and do relevant research that is of interest to them. A campus PI and a community PI is identified for each project. Thus far, ASCEND has organized three rounds of CBPRs. The table below provides some information about the most recent round of CBPR funded projects.

#	Project Title	Co-PI (MSU)	Co-PI (Community)	Budget*
1	Mothers in Mourning: Complicated Grief in An Urban Community	Linda Patricia Darrell	Sharon McMahan	\$20,000
2	Effects of Environmental Molds On Microbial Diversity in The Built Environment	Douglas Dluzen	Hector Moreno	\$19,976
3	Engaging Barbers As Peer Educators for Smoking Cessation in Upton/Druid Heights	Ian Lindong	Stacey Stephens	\$20,000
4	Community Driven Matrices for Sanitation and Cleanliness	Tonya Sanders	Robert Washington	\$20,000
Total				\$79,976



PEARL



Dr. Scott Knoche
Director, PEARL

The Patuxent, Environmental and Aquatic Research Laboratory, (PEARL) supports and enhances oyster aquaculture industry growth through technology transfer, research, and education. These efforts will ultimately lead to a cleaner bay and economic development.

Oyster Genetics

Oyster Genomics Researcher Dr. Ming Liu, is using a genomic selection approach to create superior oyster strains with the support of The Office of Technology Transfer I-GAP Grant. The primary aim of his research is to support the growing Maryland oyster aquaculture industry. His work is widely used in plant and livestock breeding, Dr. Liu's research is the first application in mollusks such as oysters.



Picture showing obvious improvement in growth in selected oyster line (left) than unselected line (right)

nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs, a kind of DNA variation). He designed a ~150K high-density SNP array, which is a critical first step towards identifying disease resistant and fast-growing oyster lines in future research.

Exciting Recent

Progress! - Dr. Liu recently sampled 21 eastern oyster populations across the US eastern coast from Maine to the Gulf of Mexico and discovered 63 million single

Hatchery and Nursery Production

Research Assistant Professor Dr. Thomas Ihde, Education Coordinator Richard Lacouture, and Aquaculture Program Manager Amber DeMarr, are developing an approach to increase oyster seed production in a nursery.



Dr. Tom Ihde conducting experimental trial on algae growth

Larvae Settlement Research Update

Aquaculture Program Manager Amber DeMarr and Intern Ashley Ziur worked with Southern Maryland oyster aquaculture farmer "Johnny OysterSeed Company" during the summer of 2018 to investigate cost-effective and efficient ways to set oyster larvae.

Outreach and Engagement Update

PEARL recently joined the Chesapeake Oyster Alliance as a member of the science subcommittee. The goal of this committee is to add 10 Billion Oysters by 2025 through restoration, science-based fishery management and sustainable aquaculture. MSU PEARL joins over 40 non-profits, community organizations, universities & oyster growers in an effort to enhance the oyster population of the Bay & tributaries.



GESTAR



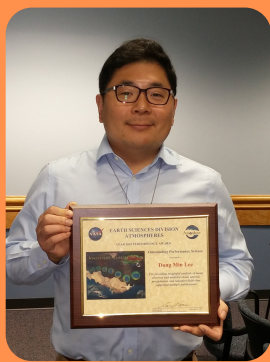
Dr. Daniel Laughlin
GESTAR, Program Manager

MSU is a partner in the Goddard Earth Sciences Technology & Research (GESTAR) Cooperative Agreement with the University Space Research Association (USRA) to provide scientists & engineers, primarily in Earth System Sciences to NASA.

This year, we plan to aggressively pursue increased involvement of MSU students and faculty in the research being conducted by our 22 GESTAR scientists and engineers at NASA Goddard.

Awards

Assistant Research Scientist, Dr. Dong Min Lee won the award for Outstanding Performance Science for "providing insightful analysis of many observed and modeled cloud



Dr. Dong Ming Lee

aerosol, precipitation and radiation fields that supported multiple publications". This award was from the Atmospheres Division at NASA Goddard Space Flight Center. The Atmospheres Division is home to over 300 researchers.

All Nations University unveils and demonstrates GhanaSat-2 mission concept

The 7th Space Science and Satellite Technology Application (SSSTA) conference was hosted by the All Nations University. It was crowned with the launching of a weather balloon at the premises of the All Nations University Space Systems Technology Laboratory (ANU-SSTL). This was a pilot demonstration of GhanaSat-2. The Director of the ANU-SSTL, GESTAR Atmospheric Scientist, Dr. Richard Damoah said sectors such as Aviation, Agriculture, Health, Transport, Marine and even local commerce are all dependent on weather and climate data. He noted that Ghana, with the expertise of the ANU-SSTL combined with GMet would possibly be able to develop its own meteorological satellite. This would help to not only save Ghana, but also decrease the need for neighboring countries to procure data from foreign agents.

Source: Africanews.space



Dr. Damoah launched a weather balloon to measure weather parameters



External Awards

October - December 2018

Awarded				
Operating Unit	Principal Investigator	Funding Agency	Grant Title	Amount Awarded
College of Liberal Arts	Mbare Ngom	Department of Education	Columbia in the 21 st Century: History, Culture, Peace Building & Reconciliation	94,584
Division of Research and Economic Development	Willie May	NSF	Workshop to Promote Participation of HBCU's in Advanced Manufacturing Research	99,992
School of Computer, Mathematical, and Natural Sciences	Yuejin Li	Maryland State Highway Administration	Impacts of Emergency Traffic Patrol Lights on Human Perception	147,537
School of Computer, Mathematical, and Natural Sciences	Ramesh Budhani	Air Force Office of Scientific Research (AFOSR)	Nano Structures of Magnetic Dirac Metals for RF Electronics	584,186
School of Engineering	Oludare Owolabi	Maryland State Highway Administration	Highway Geometrics & Noise Abatement Decisions	94,291
School of Engineering	Kofi Nyarko	NSF	Research Experiences for Undergraduates & Teachers in Smart & Connected Cities	2,332,813
School of Graduate Studies	Raymond A. Winbush	Baltimore City Police Department (BPD)	A proposed survey of the Baltimore City Police Department	64,145
Total				3,417,548

Funding Opportunities

Air Force Office of Scientific Research BAA

Funding Agency: Department of Defense (FA9550-18-S-0003)

Funding Amount: up to \$400,000 per year

Duration: 3 years

Scope: As a part of the Air Force Research Laboratory (AFRL), technical experts discover, shape, and champion research within AFRL, universities, and industry laboratories to ensure the transition of research results to support U.S. Air Force needs. To accomplish this task, AFRL solicit proposals for basic research through this general Broad Agency Announcement outlining the U.S. Air Force Defense Research Sciences Program. They invite unclassified proposals that do not contain proprietary information for research in many broad areas. They expect to fund only fundamental research.

Key Dates: This announcement remains open until superseded.

Agency Website: <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppId=305996>

Federal Contract Opportunity for Air Force Defense Research Sciences Conference and Workshop Support BAA-AFRL-AFOSR-2016-0008

Funding Agency: Air Force Office of Scientific Research

Scope: The Air Force Office of Scientific Research manages the basic research investment for the U.S. Air Force. Conferences and workshops constitute key forums for research and technology interchange. Funding requests are welcome from U.S. institutions of higher education (IHE) or nonprofit organizations as described in 2 CFR 25.345, including foreign public entities and foreign organizations operated primarily for scientific, educational, service, charitable, or similar purposes in the public interest.

Key Dates: Proposals must be submitted at least six (6) months prior to the conference or workshop start date to be considered. This announcement remains open until superseded or closed.

Agency Website: <http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/search-grants.html?keywords=BAA-AFRL-AFOSR2016-0008>

Maryland State Grants

<https://grants.maryland.gov/Pages/StateGrants.aspx>

National Science Foundation

<https://www.nsf.gov/funding/programs.jsp?org=HRD>

D-RED Employee of the Quarter



Ailing Zhang
Grants Manager, D-RED Pre-award Team

Current job function – Assist Principal Investigators and Co-Investigators prepare and submit proposals for external funding. I help them to understand policies, procedures and agency announcements. In addition, I am responsible for approving budgets/justifications for all proposal submissions. My goal is to make sure that all proposals are in compliance with the agency and/or sponsor's guidelines.

What is our current funding climate? – Overall, we have increased the amount of proposal submissions. The two major schools; the School of Engineering and School of Computer and Mathematical Sciences has played a major part in this. We (D-RED Pre-award Team) are now trying to work with the university (including all of the individual schools) to be actively involved in the initial proposal submission process.

The D-RED believes that it is important to honor not only the researchers but also the research administrators that work tirelessly to meet demanding business needs. We would like to acknowledge our first D-RED Employee of the Quarter.

To nominate a D-RED team member: Please provide a brief write-up on why you think they should be featured in the upcoming D-RED quarterly newsletter. DRED.feedback@morgan.edu

How is D-RED doing? – We are heading in the right direction, despite some of the unavoidable challenges. One of our main goals now is trying to continuously educate Principal Investigators on funding opportunities. Since MSU is now evolving into a research institution, it is important for our faculty to become more research-oriented. The Pre-Award Team is working diligently to not only train the faculty on a one-on-one basis, but to also have workshops on submitting and finding opportunities. We plan to provide more grantsmanship training sessions geared towards writing research-oriented projects.

Outside of Research Administration, what are your hobbies? – I was a university professor and taught the Chinese language for over 12 years at Morgan State University. I have kept in contact with a lot of my students and colleagues and we often meet up for international travel and various networking events. I also enjoy mentoring students that are interested in various subjects that I have taught and/or worked in.

New Initiatives

INDUSTRIAL HEMP



Photo Credit: istockphoto.com

The passage and signing into law of the 2018 Farm Bill opens the way for a substantial growth in cultivation of hemp in the United States, leading to a large market for hemp-related agriculture and industry, currently estimated to be \$800 million. Therefore, a strong training, research, and service program focused on hemp is very timely and is responsive to a major need of the State of Maryland and the nation. In December 2018, MSU met with more than 60 farmers in Southern Maryland interested in exploring a partnership to assist them in the establishment of an Industrial HEMP-Economy within the state of Maryland. With that as our cue, MSU is now establishing a vision for an industrial HEMP Program that will encompass:

- Teaching and Training regarding Industrial HEMP & medicinal chemistry in general
- Laboratory based Research focused on the identification, quantitation and the study of the more than 300 cannabinoid compounds in hemp.
- Measurement Services to the Maryland Farming Community

“Industrial hemp was once a dominant crop in Americas and was used for many purposes, in fact, the Declaration of Independence was drafted on hemp paper.”



Farmers in Southern Maryland interested in Industrial Hemp Partnership Opportunities

Industrial hemp and the marijuana are different varieties of the species *Cannabis sativa*. Morgan is well-poised & positioned for establishing this proposed program. We are the State of Maryland's Preeminent Urban Public Research Institution and now have a Carnegie designation of R2 (Doctoral University—high research activity). Our School of Computer, Mathematical, and Natural Sciences has strong research programs in its chemistry and biology departments, major equipment for measuring cannabinoids in its Dixon Research Building, & faculty member (Dr. Jiangnan Peng) with substantial expertise and research experience related to medicinal plants. A collaboration that has been established with the Shimadzu Instrument Corporation will make this program even stronger.

Student Opportunities

BASE ROCKETRY CHALLENGE

The commercial space industry is expected to become a \$2.7 trillion economic sector in the next 30 years, according to a report by Bank of America Merrill Lynch. Yet the industry faces significant challenges in recruiting a diverse workforce.

To address this issue, Base-11, a STEM workforce and entrepreneur acceleration company on a mission to build a sustainable middle class in America partnered with Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity to launch a competition that would result in equipping at least one Historically Black College & University with a robust, long-term student rocketry program that will enable that HBCU to work with industry to develop in-demand aerospace talent and launch new innovations that will harness space as the new frontier.

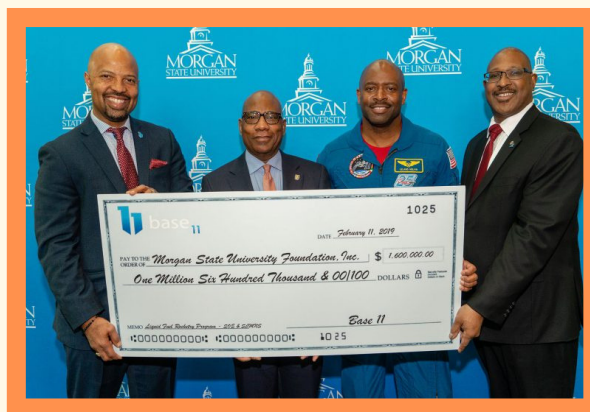
Morgan State University has been selected to receive this \$1.6M grant. These funds will be used for the creation of an Aerospace Research Program that features liquid-fuel rocketry as a major component. The Grant provides resources for :

- the development of a dedicated rocketry lab
- the recruitment and hiring of an aerospace expert
- the development and implementation of a world-class

rocketry program at Morgan. This new and exciting program will involve a collaboration between Morgan's schools of Engineering and Computer, Math, and Natural Sciences. The launch and institutional coordination of this new program will be provided by D-RED.

Students interested in STEM Education and the Rocketry Program are encouraged to apply.
More details to come.

The formal announcement and celebration of this new award was made during a major media event at Morgan on February 11, 2019.



Research News, Events & Updates



Dr. Kevin Kornegay
CAP Center Director

The **Cybersecurity Assurance & Policy** (CAP) Center was recently established to provide the U.S. intelligence community with

knowledge, methodology, solutions and skilled cybersecurity engineers. The CAP Center will become the home for the Center for Reverse Engineering and Assured Microelectronics (CREAM) Lab in the School of Engineering. This center converges disciplines and industries driven by the fourth Industrial Age, and will broaden its focus to address challenges facing the United States as digital physical environments begin to grow. Funding to support this endeavor will be used to hire several new faculty, staff, post-doctoral and graduate students, equipment, faculty startup support, and travel. The MSU School of Computer, Mathematical & Natural Sciences & the School of Business will also support core functions of the CAP Center.

FRINGE RATE CHANGE

The fringe rate for MSU regular full-time employees has increased from 39% to 42%. Please make note of this change going forward for Sponsored Program budgeting. For more details see D-RED website.

POST AWARD BRIEFING

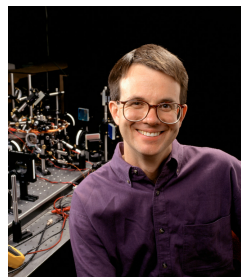
The post award briefings; a requirement of all new awards, will now be conducted weekly. All MSU PIs that are recent recipients of extramural funding awards are encouraged to attend. This briefing will provide information on procedural and policy requirements. The following departments are invited & will provide information related to research administration best practices:

- Comptroller's Office
- Human Resources
- Purchasing Card Office
- Sponsored Programs – Post Award
- Procurement
- Restricted Funds Accounting

TEAM UPDATES

Congratulations

- **Maicy Hodge** and **Keyshawn Moncrieffe** became Certified Research Administrators (CRA) through Research Administrators Certification Council RACC. As a reputable credential in the research community, a CRA designation demonstrates a broad knowledge of all aspects of research administration including, project development & administration, legal requirements & sponsor interface, financial management, & general management.
- **Dr. Ming Liu** from the PEARL has been developing the Chesapeake PEARL Oyster (TM), a strain of oysters with favorable characteristics leading to superior performance in the Chesapeake environment. Through this work & support from OTT, Dr. Liu advances genetic research, advances the aquaculture industry, & provides Morgan's students with opportunities to participate in cutting edge research. This Fall 2018 **Dr. Ming Liu** married his fiancé Yuli & are now expecting their first child.



Dr. Eric Cornell
2001 Nobel Laureate in
Physics

UPCOMING SPRING LECTURE

April 30, 2019

"Looking for Fossils of the Big Bang"

How can we learn about the first few seconds after the universe was born? We can't go way back in time, but if we look hard enough, we might find tiny hints left over from that turbulent moment, perhaps still visible in the sky, and in the lab, today. Dr. Cornell will focus on the lab part of that, on how NIST scientists are using cutting edge measurements to look back in time for fossils of the Big Bang. More details to come.

STEM EXPO

The 6th annual STEM Expo hosted by the Center for Excellence in Mathematics & Science Education (CEMSE) & D-RED was held October 2018. The goal of the expo was to inform, engage & excite students throughout the state of Maryland to global STEM careers. Students had a blast with the interactive displays & hands-on activities. STEM professionals spoke with students about scholarships, internships & careers.

For more details please contact CEMSE:

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Dr. Simen Nygaga & Dr. Frank Deniro
speaking with interested students



Students had a blast with the
interactive displays and hands-on activities



Students learn about Osteology or the study of human bones



This young butterfly enthusiast or Lepidopterist
admires and compares the different butterfly species

NIST BUS SERVICE



**National Institute of
Standards and Technology**
U.S. Department of Commerce

On-Demand Bus Service Between Johns Hopkins University Morgan State and NIST

An on-demand bus service between Johns Hopkins University (JHU), MSU and the NIST is being implemented. The service would allow students, faculty & administrators to travel between NIST & the two campuses on a daily basis.

The bus service will be funded under the NIST PREP (Professional Research Experience Program) program administered at JHU. JHU has been awarded up to \$30 million to lead a consortium of universities consisting of MSU & the State University of New York at Binghamton. Together with JHU, these universities will work on research projects with NIST (for more details see <https://hub.jhu.edu/2018/08/07/national-institute-standards-technology-research-grant/>).

The bus service, as envisioned during discussions (with Jennean Everett, Dr. Peter Zeender, MSU PI Dr. Michael Spencer and JHU PI Dr. Larry Nagahara) would enhance the interactions between investigators & students at the two local campuses, & give more visibility to the NIST PREP program.

The idea of a bus service is also embraced by Dr. Willie E. May the V.P. for Research at MSU & a former Director of NIST. Dr. May has been actively promoting increased NIST/Morgan interactions



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