



**SUPPORT THE NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION  
HBCU UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAM (HBCU-UP)**



**RECOMMENDATION**

Support **\$64 million** for the Historically Black Colleges and Universities Undergraduate Program (HBCU-UP) at the National Science Foundation (NSF).

**NATIONAL SIGNIFICANCE**

The U.S. science and technology workforce exceeded 7.4 million workers in 2012 and it will continue to grow significantly through 2018, to an estimated 8.7 million STEM workers. However, only 1 to 2 percent of African American 9th graders eventually graduate with STEM degrees ten years after entering high school.

To meet the nation's accelerating needs for STEM talent, more rapid gains in achievement, success and degree production in STEM for underrepresented minority populations are required. Greater investment in HBCUs can help meet the need. The top 10 institutions where African American science and engineering PhDs earned their bachelor's degrees are HBCUs. Yet, HBCUs received less than 2 percent of NSF grant awards in FY 2013.

**BACKGROUND**

In 2000, NSF established the HBCU-UP program in an effort to aid HBCUs in bolstering STEM education programs and institutional research capacity.

The goal of the program is to develop, implement and study evidence-based innovative models and approaches for improving the preparation and success of HBCU undergraduate students so that they may pursue STEM graduate programs and/or careers.

The HBCU-UP program focuses on innovation and curriculum development; recruitment and retention efforts (particularly related to first-year undergraduates); access to STEM research experiences for undergraduates; and transitions at critical educational stages including undergraduate to graduate school.

To date, HBCU-UP has funded 85 of the 101 HBCUs. One example is Clark Atlanta University (Atlanta, Georgia), which used HBCU-UP funds to administer a ten-week student program in 2014 and will continue the program through 2018. The summer program focuses on genomics, computational biology and epigenetics – and their integration in the new area of systems biology. Participants are expected to do full-time lab research as well as participate in seminars and workshops that include systems biology, molecular genetics research, career opportunities in industry and academia, and the graduate school application process.

<b>HBCU-UP Funding History</b>	
<b>FY 2012</b>	\$32 million
<b>FY 2013</b>	\$30 million*
<b>FY 2014</b>	\$32 million
<b>FY 2015</b>	\$32 million
<b>FY 2016</b>	\$35 million
<b>FY 2017</b>	\$35 million
<b>HBCU Coalition FY 2018 Request</b>	<b>\$64 million</b>

\*Reflects across-the-board sequestration cut, pursuant to the Budget Control Act of 2011.