



**SUPPORT THE NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION
LOUIS STOKES ALLIANCES FOR MINORITY PARTICIPATION
(LSAMP) PROGRAM**



RECOMMENDATION

Support **\$51 million** for the Louis Stokes Alliances for Minority Participation (LSAMP) program at the National Science Foundation (NSF).

NATIONAL SIGNIFICANCE

The United States is falling behind its international peers in its ability to produce the scientific and technological talent needed to stay competitive in the global arena.

Exacerbating this challenge are changing demographics. Minority students are a growing part of the population and the potential talent pool; however, too many minority students lack adequate training to pursue careers in STEM fields. Only 11 percent of African American students are college ready in science and only 15 percent are ready for college level academics in mathematics. According to the NSF, African Americans make up just 5 percent of the 5.4 million scientists and engineers in the U.S. workforce. Increasing the number of students, especially students of color, with STEM degrees will improve the nation’s economy.

BACKGROUND

In 1991, Congress established the LSAMP program within NSF to increase the quantity and quality of minorities successfully completing baccalaureate degrees and continuing with graduate studies in STEM fields. LSAMP supports sustained and comprehensive approaches that facilitate achievement of the long-term goal of increasing the number of students who earn doctorates in STEM fields. LSAMP does this by funding innovative recruitment and retention programs and strategies in support of historically underrepresented groups in STEM such as African Americans, Hispanic Americans, and Native Americans.

For example, past grantee, Johnson C. Smith University (Charlotte, North Carolina) implemented a Summer Science Learning Community for incoming freshman students planning to major in STEM fields to help with their transition to college. The program administered an academic curriculum and provided direct access to student support services. In addition, Fayetteville State University (Fayetteville, NC) provides research and student/faculty mentorship opportunities to improve STEM competencies and bolster retention rates.

LSAMP Funding History	
FY 2012	\$46 million
FY 2013	\$43 million*
FY 2014	\$46 million
FY 2015	\$46 million
FY 2016	\$46 million
FY 2017	\$46 million
HBCU Coalition FY 2018 Request	\$51 million

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