The Virginia-North Carolina Alliance

The National Science Foundation provides funding to the Virginia-North Carolina Alliance through the Louis Stokes Alliances for Minority Participation program. The Alliance's goal is to significantly increase the quality and quantity of underrepresented minority students who are pursuing degrees and careers in STEM fields. The Alliance comprises Bennett College for Women, Elizabeth City State University, George Mason University, Johnson C. Smith University, Piedmont Virginia Community College, U.Va., VCU and Virginia Tech.

The U.Va. Engineering School Celebrates Participation in

The Virginia-North Carolina Alliance

Dr. Marcus L. Martin, P.I.
Vice President and Chief Officer for Diversity and Equity, Office for Diversity and Equity

Carolyn Vallas, Co-P.I.
Assistant Dean, Center for Diversity in Engineering

Kristin Morgan, Program Director
Office for Diversity and Equity

Linda Columbus, Co-P.I.
Assistant Professor, Department of Chemistry

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The NSF-funded Louis Stokes Alliances for Minority Participation (LSAMP) program is named in honor of Louis Stokes, a politician, civil rights attorney and advocate who was the first African-American congressman from Ohio and co-founder of the Congressional Black Caucus. The LSAMP program assists colleges and universities in diversifying the STEM workforce by funding alliances of partner schools that strive to increase the quality and quantity of students, particularly African-Americans, Alaskan Natives, American Indians, Hispanic Americans, Native Hawaiians and Native Pacific Islanders, who are pursuing degrees and careers in STEM fields.

While leading the VA-NC Alliance as a whole, Dr. Marcus Martin also will lead grant activities at the University of Virginia, along with Carolyn Vallas (specifically the efforts in the Engineering School), Linda Columbus (specifically the efforts in the College and Graduate School of Arts & Sciences) and Kristin Morgan.

Initiatives supported by the grant will include research experiences, symposia, workshops and graduate school preparation retreats and are open to all students and faculty at VA-NC Alliance partner schools. The synergy created by sharing resources across institutional lines will assist in increasing the quantity and quality of underrepresented minority populations that graduate with a STEM degree, well-prepared to succeed at the graduate level and to contribute to the STEM workforce.

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