

For Immediate Release

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Harris-Stowe Awarded \$1.7 Million National Science Foundation Grant

ST. LOUIS, MO (August 13, 2014) – Harris-Stowe State University has achieved another historic milestone as the National Science Foundation (NSF) announced the university will receive its second Historically Black Colleges and Universities-Undergraduate Program (HBCU-UP) implementation grant for \$1.7 million.

The initial NSF grant awarded some six years ago for \$2.5 million launched growing science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) activity at Harris-Stowe and established the institution as a major player in the STEM arena.

Efforts through the first grant allowed Harris-Stowe to offer bachelor of science degrees in mathematics and biology. In 2013, Harris-Stowe ranked No. 1 in the state in degree production of African-Americans in mathematics according to data from the Missouri Department of Higher Education.

Additionally, a 3+2 partnership was established with Saint Louis University's Parks College of Engineering, Aviation and Technology, and undergraduate research opportunities with Donald Danforth Plant Science Center, Saint Louis Science Center, Washington University and the World Aquarium at the City Museum in downtown St. Louis.

This new implementation project, "Increasing STEM Degree Production through Undergraduate Research and Collaborations," seeks to increase STEM degree production among African-American and underrepresented students in STEM disciplines at Harris-Stowe through faculty mentoring, undergraduate research and partnering with STEM institutions in the region.

"We are excited to receive this news," stated President Dr. Dwaun J. Warmack. "This opportunity will allow us to continue to strengthen and increase recruitment, retention and graduation of STEM majors at HSSU, and provide the resources necessary for an enriching academic environment our students need to thrive."

Instrumental in acquiring this grant were Dr. Dwyane Smith, vice president of Academic Affairs; Dr. Michelle McClure, assistant vice president of Academic Affairs; Dr. Lateef Adelani, dean of the College of Arts & Sciences; Heather Bostic, executive director of Title III and Sponsored Programs; Dr. Tommie Turner, director of the Institute for Science & Mathematics, along with the biology and mathematics faculty at HSSU. Assistance was also provided by Dr. Julie Kapp, director of Partnership for Evaluation, Assessment and Research (PEAR) at the University of Missouri-St. Louis who wrote the grant evaluation and will serve as the external evaluator.

Through this project Harris-Stowe seeks to provide students with the academic preparation and analytical and technical competencies they will need to succeed in graduate school or STEM careers as well. “Grants from agencies like the NSF allow our faculty to provide experiences to STEM students that would not otherwise be possible,” said Bostic. The overall goal is to provide specific interventions that will impact students’ cognitive and non-cognitive abilities that are necessary for student success.

“I am ecstatic about the NSF funding,” said principal investigator Dr. Dwyane Smith. “This will allow Harris-Stowe to continue in its trajectory in producing outstanding STEM graduates, and fund the summer Academy for Science & Mathematics as well as our undergraduate research program.”

Harris-Stowe State University, located in midtown St. Louis, is a fully accredited four-year institution that offers 14 degree programs in the areas of teacher education, business and arts & sciences. In 2013, HSSU ranked No. 1 in the state in degree production of African-Americans in mathematics (Missouri Department of Higher Education). The university, which has been in existence for more than 150 years, offers the most affordable bachelor’s degree in the state of Missouri.

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