



U.S. Department of Education  
Office of Postsecondary Education

March 26, 2012

OPEID: 00365200  
University of Houston  
Houston, TX

Dear Susan E. Moreno:

We are pleased to inform you that your recent request for Designation As An Eligible Institution under Title III and Title V programs of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended by the Higher Education Opportunity Act of 2008 (HEA) is approved. Subject to the specific program requirements, your institution **may apply for a new grant** under any of the Title III programs and the Title V, Hispanic-Serving Institutions Programs.

As a result of receiving this designation, your institution **is also eligible for a waiver of the non-Federal share matching requirements** under the Federal Work Study Program, the Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant Program, and the TRIO Student Support Services Program under Title IV of the HEA, as well as the Undergraduate International Studies and Foreign Language Program authorized by Title VI of the HEA. The eligibility for a waiver of the non-Federal share matching requirements applies for a **five-year** period beginning **July 1, 2012**. The offices within the Department that administer those specific programs will handle the waiver of the cost sharing. Accordingly, you do not need to reapply for designation as an eligible institution for five years, unless you wish to apply for a grant under the Title III programs or the Title V, Hispanic-Serving Institutions Programs. You must apply for eligibility designation in each year you wish to participate in a program competition for funding

**Please retain this letter as evidence of your eligibility and for an adequate audit trail.**

If you have questions concerning this designation, please contact Kelley Harris at [kelley.harris@ed.gov](mailto:kelley.harris@ed.gov) or 202 219-7083 or Carnisia Proctor at [carnisia.proctor@ed.gov](mailto:carnisia.proctor@ed.gov) or 202 502-7606.

Sincerely,

Leonard L. Haynes, Ph.D  
Senior Director  
Institutional Service

# Lewis-Burke Associates LLC

## MEMORANDUM

To: Lisa Robertson, Executive Director of External Relations and Strategic Partnerships,  
University of Houston Cullen College of Engineering

From: Lewis-Burke Associates LLC

Date: April 18, 2012

Re: Federal Opportunities for Hispanic Serving Institutions

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Following the University of Houston's (UH) designation as a Hispanic Serving Institution (HSI) by the U.S. Department of Education, this memorandum provides an overview of funding opportunities available to HSIs across the federal agencies. The list is designed to provide a survey of opportunities that exist for HSIs at a variety of agencies; additional information on specific programs can be provided upon request. Programs described below are likely of interest to UH schools and colleges beyond Engineering. Some programs are also open to all Minority Serving Institutions (MSIs), including Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) and Tribal Colleges and Universities (TCUs), in addition to HSI's. Finally, this document only includes programs either currently or previously funded by Congress, and omits those which have been authorized but never received appropriations. Lewis-Burke looks forward to assisting UH in the pursuit of HSI funding.

### Department of Education (ED)

**Developing Hispanic-Serving Institutions Program** – This program is authorized under Title V of the Higher Education Act to expand educational opportunities for Hispanic students, increase their enrollment, and improve educational and institutional quality. ED designates colleges and universities as HSIs, which then are eligible for grants at the agencies below. This program awards the *Developing Hispanic-Serving Institutions Individual Development Grants* and *Cooperative Development Grants* (requires partnering). Source and additional information: <http://www2.ed.gov/programs/idadeshi/index.html>.

**Minority Science and Engineering Improvement Program** – This program funds science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) education programs in institutions with high minority enrollment to increase the representation of minority groups in the STEM workforce. Source and additional information: <http://www2.ed.gov/programs/idadesmsi/index.html>.

## National Science Foundation (NSF)

While NSF does not maintain a HSI-specific program, there are a number of opportunities which may be of interest to UH. NSF has recently convened listening sessions on the development of an HSI program, which could present future opportunities.

- **Alliances for Graduate Education and the Professoriate (AGEP)** – AGEP provides scholarships to underrepresented minorities enrolled in colleges and universities and who are pursuing STEM degrees. There are currently over 100 participating colleges and universities. Source and additional information: [http://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm\\_summ.jsp?pims\\_id=503563](http://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pims_id=503563).

The solicitation is available at

[http://www.nsf.gov/publications/pub\\_summ.jsp?WT.z\\_pims\\_id=503563&ods\\_key=nsf10605](http://www.nsf.gov/publications/pub_summ.jsp?WT.z_pims_id=503563&ods_key=nsf10605).

A list of recently-awarded proposals is available at

<http://www.nasa.gov/offices/education/programs/national/urc/home/index.html>.

- **Broadening Participation Research Initiation Grants in Engineering (BRIGE)** – BRIGE aims to increase minority participation in engineering programs by supporting future role models for mentoring an “increasingly diverse engineering student population. BRIGE supports research and diversity plans that contribute to recruiting and retaining a broad representation of engineering researchers.” Source and additional information: [http://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm\\_summ.jsp?pims\\_id=503160](http://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pims_id=503160).

The solicitation is available at

[http://www.nsf.gov/publications/pub\\_summ.jsp?WT.z\\_pims\\_id=503160&ods\\_key=nsf11576](http://www.nsf.gov/publications/pub_summ.jsp?WT.z_pims_id=503160&ods_key=nsf11576).

- **Opportunities for Enhancing Diversity in the Geosciences (OEDG)** – OEDG aims to increase representation of minority groups within geosciences and to increase awareness of the relevance of geosciences within under-represented groups. PEDG supports students and professionals at different stages of their education and career, from associate degrees to entry into geosciences careers. Source and additional information: [http://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm\\_summ.jsp?pims\\_id=12726](http://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pims_id=12726).

The solicitation is available here

[http://www.nsf.gov/publications/pub\\_summ.jsp?WT.z\\_pims\\_id=12726&ods\\_key=nsf10599](http://www.nsf.gov/publications/pub_summ.jsp?WT.z_pims_id=12726&ods_key=nsf10599).

- **Partnerships in Astronomy and Astrophysics Research and Education (PAARE)** – PARRE develops research and educational partnerships with minority-serving institutions to enhance diversity in astronomy and astrophysics. Source and additional information: [http://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm\\_summ.jsp?pims\\_id=501046](http://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pims_id=501046).

The solicitation is available here

[http://www.nsf.gov/publications/pub\\_summ.jsp?WT.z\\_pims\\_id=501046&ods\\_key=nsf08562](http://www.nsf.gov/publications/pub_summ.jsp?WT.z_pims_id=501046&ods_key=nsf08562).

## **National Endowment of Humanities (NEH)**

**Humanities Initiatives at Hispanic-Serving Institutions** – These grants fund humanities education through content and curriculum improvement, new programs, and scholarships at HSIs. Applicants can choose to expand existing programs or propose new ones. The program receives very few applications, averaging only 27 per year. Approximately five awards (19 percent) are funded annually. Source and additional information:

<http://www.neh.gov/grants/education/humanities-initiatives-hispanic-serving-institutions>.

A list of recently awarded grants is available at

<https://securegrants.neh.gov/PublicQuery/main.aspx?q=1&d=0&f=0&p=1&pv=243&s=0&y=0&n=0&o=0&t=0&ob=year&or=DESC>.

**Awards for Faculty at Hispanic-Serving Institutions** – These awards support individual faculty members employed at HSIs who are pursuing humanities research or research of interest to the humanities. The model is intentionally flexible; applicants can determine the type of research and the audience. Previous projects have included written articles, translations, monographs, and digital materials, among others. In 2011 the program received 110 applications, of which six (five percent) were funded. Source and additional information:

<http://www.neh.gov/grants/research/awards-faculty-hispanic-serving-institutions>.

## **United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)**

### **USDA Hispanic-Serving Institutions National Program**

This program aims to foster partnerships between USDA and HSIs “to provide equitable access to employment, educational and institutional development opportunities.” Specifically, the program offers a variety of internship opportunities, engages in outreach to HSIs, and provides scholarships and fellowships. Source and additional information: <http://www.hsi.usda.gov/>.

Opportunities include:

- **USDA E. Kika De La Garza Fellowship Program** – Garza fellowships allow faculty and staff from HSIs to come to USDA headquarters in Washington, D.C. for 2-4 weeks. Fellows learn more about the federal agencies at the national level and “address the spectrum of challenges faced in the development of a well-prepared Hispanic workforce.” Source and additional information: <http://www.hsi.usda.gov/HSIs/fellowship.htm>.
- **USDA Public Service Leaders Scholarship Program** – This program provides undergraduate and graduate students with both an internship and scholarship while in college. Following graduation, recipients become permanent employees of USDA. Source and additional information: <http://www.hsi.usda.gov/Students/PSLS.htm>.

- **Hispanic-serving Agricultural Colleges and Universities (HSACU)** - HSACU was established by USDA. Eligible institutions are defined as HSIs offering bachelors, associate and other degrees in agriculture-related fields. The program offers an endowment fund; equity grants; institutional capacity-building grants; applied research grants; and extension grants. Source and additional information: <http://www.hsi.usda.gov/HSIs/FarmBillHSACU.htm>.

#### Grant Opportunities:

- **Hispanic Serving Institutions Education Grants Program** – This is a competitive grants program to enhance HSIs' ability to provide food and agricultural sciences education. Source and additional information: <http://www.csrees.usda.gov/fo/hispanicservinginstitutionseducationhep.cfm>.
- **Higher Education Challenge Grants Program (NIFA)** – This program provides funding to strengthen colleges' and universities' ability to produce (undergraduate and graduate) students capable of working in the nation's food and agricultural workforce. Source and additional information: <http://www.csrees.usda.gov/fo/educationchallengehigheredhep.cfm>.
- **Higher Education Multicultural Scholars Program** – This is a competitive, undergraduate scholarship program to increase diversity in the food and agricultural scientific workforce. Source and additional information: <http://www.csrees.usda.gov/fo/multiculturalscholarshp.cfm>.
- **National Needs Graduate Fellowship Program** – National Needs supports graduate students seeking degrees in "USDA mission areas, NIFA priorities, and national science education policies and statistics." Source and additional information: <http://www.csrees.usda.gov/fo/nationalneedsgraduatefellowshipsnnf.cfm>.

#### Other information:

On October 21, 2011, the USDA's HSI National Program sponsored the National Federal Grants Conference and Webcast. The event, titled "Advancing Higher Education, Science and Outreach," aimed to explore and improve the relationship between academia and government. The video and presentations are available here <http://www.hsi.usda.gov/FederalGrant/index.htm>.

#### Department of Energy (DOE)

**Partnering with Minority Serving Institutions** – While there are no established HSI or MSI programs, the Office of Minority Economic Impact facilitates partnerships between DOE national laboratories and MSIs. The Office acts as a liaison between DOE program offices and MSIs to increase minority representation among grantees and inform MSIs of upcoming grant opportunities. Source and additional information: <http://energy.gov/diversity/services/partnering-minority-serving-institutions>.

The strategic plan is available at  
[http://energy.gov/sites/prod/files/ED2/minority/documents/Strategic\\_Plan\\_2009 -  
Minority Education Programs.pdf](http://energy.gov/sites/prod/files/ED2/minority/documents/Strategic_Plan_2009_-_Minority_Education_Programs.pdf)

## **National Institutes of Health (NIH)**

**National Institute of Minority Health and Health Disparities (NIMHD) Research Centers in Minority-Serving Institutions** – NIMHD's program seeks to expand the research infrastructure and capabilities at doctorate-awarding institutions serving a significant percentage of minority groups underrepresented in biomedical science. The program includes grants (eligibility varies) in health sciences and/or health professions. Source and additional information:  
[http://www.nimhd.nih.gov/our\\_programs/research\\_centers.asp](http://www.nimhd.nih.gov/our_programs/research_centers.asp).

Relevant grants include:

- **Research Centers in Minority Institutions (RCMI)** – These are capacity-building grants for basic biomedical and behavioral research. Applicants must have a specific research focus. Grants can go to support “institutional resource development, e.g. supporting core facilities and staff, purchasing advanced instruments, or minor laboratory renovations.” Source and additional information:  
[http://www.nimhd.nih.gov/our\\_programs/RCMI\\_centers.asp](http://www.nimhd.nih.gov/our_programs/RCMI_centers.asp).
- **RCMI Infrastructure for Clinical and Translational Research** – These collaborative agreements fund infrastructure necessary for conducting clinical and/or translational research. Recipients often work in partnership with other institutions. Source and additional information:  
[http://www.nimhd.nih.gov/our\\_programs/RCMI\\_infrastructure\\_clinical.asp](http://www.nimhd.nih.gov/our_programs/RCMI_infrastructure_clinical.asp).
- **Clinical Research and Career Development** – These are training and clinical research opportunities for early-stage investigators whose research involves health disparities. These awards typically go to minority-serving institutions for the creation of research and degree programs to train doctoral and post-doctoral students. Source and additional information:  
[http://www.nimhd.nih.gov/our\\_programs/clinical\\_research\\_education.asp](http://www.nimhd.nih.gov/our_programs/clinical_research_education.asp).

## **Department of Homeland Security (DHS)**

**DHS Summer Research Team Program for MSIs** – DHS' Science and Technology Directorate Office of University Programs sponsors this program to bring faculty and students from MSIs to conduct research at DHS Centers of Excellence (Centers). Research must relate to homeland security science, mathematics, engineering, and mathematics; topics could include explosives detection, or food and agriculture security. Source and additional information:  
<http://www.orau.gov/dhsfaculty/>.

**MSI Centers of Excellence** – MSIs can participate in the Centers of Excellence program, both as lead and partner institutions. The program's objective is to infuse the homeland security workforce with minority representation. Current Centers in the Southwest United States include University of Texas at El Paso, University of Arizona, Texas Southern University, and



Texas A&M University. Source and additional information:

<http://www.hsuniversityprograms.org/default/index.cfm/centers-of-excellence-network/>.

## **Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)**

**Hispanic-Serving Institutions Assisting Communities (HSIAC)** – The HSIAC program assists local communities in improving their relationships with HSIs. Program areas addressed include poverty, education, housing, healthcare, etc. Eligible activities include rehabilitation of residential space, installation of public facilities, assistance to community-based development organizations, etc. It should be noted that the program did not receive funding in the FY 2011 grant cycle. Source and additional information: <http://www.oup.org/programs/aboutHSIAC.asp>.

## **Department of Transportation (DOT)**

**Minority-Serving Institution Intern Program (Federal Aviation Administration)** – This program provides students from MSIs and HSIs internship opportunities in fields including air traffic control, computer science, aviation management, business administration, engineering, and information technology (IT). Students are compensated for some living expenses, travel, and orientation. Only students who are juniors or above are eligible to apply; a 3.0 GPA is also required. Source and additional information: [http://www.faa.gov/about/office\\_org/headquarters\\_offices/ahr/jobs\\_careers/student\\_programs/minority/index.cfm](http://www.faa.gov/about/office_org/headquarters_offices/ahr/jobs_careers/student_programs/minority/index.cfm).

**Summer Transportation Internship Program for Diverse Groups (Federal Highway Administration)** – This fellowship is administered by the Universities and Grants Program Office of the National Highway Institute. It offers college and university students a ten-week internship at the Department of Transportation headquarters and in field offices across the country. Source and additional information: <http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/publications/publicroads/99septoct/grants.cfm>.

## **National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)**

**Minority University Research and Education Programs Small Projects** – This is a competitive grant program that funds STEM projects at minority-serving institutions by creating “innovative approaches to using NASA-themed content to support higher education teaching and learning.” The target population is students enrolled in a STEM major at a college or university. Awards are provided on a one-year basis but can be renewed for two additional years depending on the program’s success in meeting objectives. Source and additional information: [http://www.nasa.gov/offices/education/programs/descriptions/Minority\\_University\\_research\\_Small\\_Projects.html](http://www.nasa.gov/offices/education/programs/descriptions/Minority_University_research_Small_Projects.html).

**University Research Centers** – This program supports research centers at MSIs dedicated to aerospace science, research and development, as well as direct support to students at MSIs. There are four in the southeastern United States: University of Texas, Texas Southern University, Prairie View A&M University, and University of Texas – El Paso. Source and additional information: <http://www.nasa.gov/offices/education/programs/national/urc/home/index.html>.

## **Department of Commerce (DOC)**

**Minority Serving Institutions Program** – The agency's Office of Civil Rights operates the program, which works to ensure equal access to all DOC opportunities, contracts and grants, and supports partnerships with MSIs. Source and additional information:

<http://www.osec.doc.gov/ocr/2011/MSI/MSI.html>.

## **Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)**

**Minority Academic Institutions Program (MAI)** – MAI program functions include data measurement; strategic planning and policy review; and implementation. Source and additional information: [http://www.epa.gov/osbp/mai\\_program.htm](http://www.epa.gov/osbp/mai_program.htm).

## **Other:**

The **Department of Defense** previously administered a HSI program, but it has not been funded since FY 2005. The Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU) is active in advocating for the reinstatement of this program, which funded STEM education research and capacity building at HSI's.