

NIH Path to Sustainability

October 1, 2016 NIH and ETC signed a three-year Memorandum of Understanding to continue Path to Sustainability. ETC is pleased to continue a partnership with NIH which started in 2014 ([see 2014 press release](#)) to create a Path to Sustainability for Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs)/Minority Serving Institutions (MSIs). NIH is dedicated to helping ETC spread the message that HBCU/MSIs can receive funding that will help them participate in the type of large scale biomedical research that will ultimately bring wealth not only to the HBCUs and MSIs but also to the African American community.

In Spring of 2016, NIH hosted a symposium for HBCUs and corporate partners ([see brochure](#)) to discuss the availability of research funds, the overall procurement process, and preparation for contract competition using a new business model. NIH is focusing on HBCUs in the pilot who have bio-medical research facilities. Those 7 institutions include: Howard University, Hampton University, Morehouse Medical School, Meharry Medical College, University of Virgin Island, Charles Drew University and Jackson State University. NIH followed this spring 2016 symposium up with a training session for the HBCUs in the pilot program along with their corporate partners. ([link to training material](#)) HBCUs such as Hampton have been able to increase the number of federal proposals they submit.

What is the Path to Sustainability? The Path to Sustainability is a comprehensive plan to expand the existing National Institutes of Health (NIH) Small Business Program, in the Office of Acquisition and Logistics Management (OALM). The OALM Small Business Program will provide “Acquisition Assistance Gateway (AAG)” for technical assistance and training for HBCU/MSIs. The AAG will support the HBCU/MSIs and prepare them to compete and receive more Federal acquisition dollars that diversifies the revenues for the universities and creates more business/research opportunities at the NIH institutions and centers.

What is the current status of the Path to Sustainability Project?

1. Eight pilot HBCU/MSI universities were identified based on having a Medical School or a biomedical focus research capability – Howard University, Morehouse School of Medicine, Meharry Medical College, University of Puerto Rico Medical School, Jackson State University, Hampton University, Tuskegee University and the University of the Virgin Islands.
2. September 24, 2014, the first symposium was held with all eight pilot schools and ten minority owned businesses in attendance.
3. February 4, 2016, the Minority Business Development Agency (MBDA) and the White House Initiative on HBCU joined NIH as governmental partners. MBDA pledges travel funds to support the project.
4. February 9, 2016, White House Initiative on HBCU with MBDA as POC sends letter to NIH Director to request support for Path to Sustainability Contracting Initiative.
5. In February 2016, Deloitte Consulting, Booz Allen Hamilton, Northrop Grumman, Lockheed Martin and Federal National Commercial Credit, LLC signed on as corporate strategic partners and sponsors of the second symposium.



6. March 9, 2016, the second symposium was conducted with sessions on Biomedical BIG Data and Precision Medicine.
7. July 28, 2016, NIH conducts Webinar with all pilot schools and business partners to provide guidelines for the pilot project.
8. August 1, 2016 MBDA announces is will award Broad Agency Announcement Grant to Emerging Technology Consortium to support Path to Sustainability programs and events.
9. September 7 & 8, 2016 NIH conducts training for HBCUs Teams that are signed up in the pilot program.
10. October 1, 2016 NIH and ETC sign three-year Memorandum of Understanding to continue Path to Sustainability for three years. The agreement will complete the pilot program for the eight pilot schools including recommending a structure for sustainment, and requires the ETC to evaluate the 19 other HBCU Carnegie Classified Research Institutions to determine if they can participate in the program.
11. Currently twenty-one Minority Business Enterprises (MBE) have joined the Consortium and they have signed teaming agreements with six HBCUs and selective minority owned companies.

