



N.C. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
**Office of HBCU Outreach**  
Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU)

# MOVING FORWARD

*2018-2019 Highlights:  
The Next Generation of Transportation*

## **Al Austin** **Director's Message**



The last two years have been an exciting time for the Office of HBCU Outreach at NCDOT with staff building greater awareness of our initiative; creating new and exciting programs, developing meaningful partnerships and collaborations to connect talented students with dynamic opportunities to grow them as future leaders - for NCDOT as well as the global

transportation industry. I am honored to be part of a great team that strives for excellence each and every day.

We have a tremendously rich resource of talent at North Carolina's Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) and Minority Serving Institutions (MSI). We are proud to partner with HBCUs/MSIs to tell their story to the people in North Carolina and around the country.

We have made great strides with our initiative, including outlining [our Mission and Vision through our Five-Year Strategic Plan](#) and creating a dynamic and engaged advisory committee.

We are happy to share with you our inaugural quarterly publication called **Moving Forward**. In features to come, we will share student profiles, program stories and great achievements of our initiative. It is my hope that you enjoy this publication. Thank you for your support.

## Summer and Year-Round Internship Program



We offer a 10-week summer internship program as well as a 14-week year-round internship program that are designed to provide students attending HBCUs/MSIs with hands-on, real-world experience, knowledge and expertise that they can use to apply for future positions at NCDOT or elsewhere.

## **Achievements:**

**Doubled the number of summer internships from 25 students in 2017 to 44 students in 2018 and 42 students in 2019. We also increased intern wages from \$10/hour to \$15/hour and offered a \$1,000 need-based housing allowance.**

**Partnered and collaborated with the N.C. Department of Natural and Cultural Resources to develop a HBCU-focused summer internship program at various North Carolina museums and aquatic centers that created 15-20 new summer internship opportunities for HBCU/MSI students.**

**Created a state-wide government summer internship program consortium to share best practices, maximize talent and leverage resources. The work of this consortium resulted in the creation of the HBCU/MSI Resource Guide to internships and scholarship opportunities which is shared at career days and special events across the state to engage students with state and federal government opportunities.**

**In the Summer of 2018, four NCDOT HBCU Summer interns from North Carolina A&T were the first HBCU students to visit the International Headquarters of Virgin Hyperloop in Los Angeles and Las Vegas. Hyperloop is a new futuristic mode of transportation that will move people and freight through low pressure tubes at 600 mph to 700 mph. Those students were: Teon Parker, Dominique Parrish, Erica Batts and Morgan Crowder.**

## **Transportation Scholarships**

Aimed at attracting, expanding, and diversifying top talent in the transportation industry, the North Carolina HBCU/MSI Transportation Scholarship Program provides financial assistance to help cover the cost of college for highly motivated students at HBCUs/MSIs in North Carolina who are pursuing their undergraduate and master's degrees in transportation-related majors.

**The Office of HBCU Outreach at NCDOT awarded twenty-two(22) \$2,500 scholarships to these top students:**

**Bryana Williams – ECSU  
Shahzaib Bangash – NCAT  
Patrick Stanley – NCAT  
Alexander Oakes – NCCU  
Lakiaya Aponte- NCAT  
Clayton Brand- ECSU  
Bandon Cowan- ECSU  
Kayla Dunston- NCAT**

**Jonasha Green- NCAT**  
**Crystal Gore- NCCU**  
**Mohammad Hamd- NCAT**  
**Jeremy Hawks- NCAT**  
**Kayla Jefferson- NCAT**  
**Vianjae Johnson- JCSU**  
**Briona May- Shaw**  
**Brooklyn Mack- Livingstone**  
**Andre Knight-McWilliams- NCCU**  
**Melanie Rice- JCSU**  
**Jeffrey Smith- ECSU**  
**Gregory Stewart- NCAT**  
**Terrick Willis- NCCU**  
**Kenneth Wilson, Jr.- NCAT**

## **Scholarship Recipient Comments:**



Alexander Oakes attended North Carolina Central University where he majored in Earth Environmental and Geo Graphic Science. “Being a scholarship recipient is a true blessing because it allowed me to focus on my last semester at school and not have to devote my time to working two jobs”, says Alexander.



Bryana Williams lives in Elizabeth City, North Carolina and she is a proud graduate of Elizabeth City State University where she majored in Aviation Science with a concentration in

air traffic control. In Bryana’s words receiving the HBCU scholarship “was a wonderful opportunity that allowed me to finish college debt free.” From this opportunity, Bryanna learned about the summer intern program, she applied and now she is one of forty plus summer interns with the NCDOT.

## NEW HBCU/MSI Fellow Program



The HBCU/MSI Fellows Program offers work experience and learning opportunities for recent graduates with a bachelor’s or master’s degree from an HBCU/MSI in North Carolina.

Fellows serve a two-year commitment within a selected business unit of the N.C. Department of Transportation. During that time, they participate in professional development opportunities; free trainings and certifications, travel, and opportunities to build a network of transportation professionals.

We are happy to host these 2019 HBCU/MSI NCDOT Fellows:

Jaylin Thomas	NCCU
Edward Holley Jr.	NCCU

Ahmed Zahrani	NCAT
Bessie Gilreath	NCCU
Alexia Edmunds	NCCU
Shaquan Walker	FSU
Brandon Reyes	NCCU
Jimmy Davis	SAU, NCCU
Nathan Kemp	NCAT
Sabria Futrell	NCCU
Yahnay Baptiste	NCCU
Brandon Beaty	NCCU

## National Summer Transportation Institute (NSTI)



The National Summer Transportation Institute (NSTI) program is a Science, Technology and Math (STEM) focused program for high school and junior high/middle school students. The NSTI program objectives are to improve STEM skills, provide awareness to middle and high school students – particularly minority, female and disadvantaged youth – about transportation careers, and encourage them to consider transportation-related courses of study in their higher education pursuits.

### Achievements:

**North Carolina Department of Transportation through the Office of HBCU Outreach has the largest NSTI program in the country with eight sites around the state.**

We also have one of the longest-running program sites in the country at the Transportation Institute located at North Carolina A&T University in Greensboro, NC. They have hosted this program for more than 27 years.

## Office of HBCU Outreach at NCDOT Staff Team Directory



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