



N.C. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Office of HBCU Outreach

Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU)

MOVING FORWARD

The Next Generation of Transportation

Director's Message



This edition of *Moving Forward* is dedicated to the memory of Andrea Harris, who was not only a member of the NCDOT Office of HBCU Outreach Advisory Committee, but a huge champion and advocate for minority business development and HBCUs in North Carolina and around the country.

Andrea Harris' life was dedicated to overcoming barriers to economic growth and

opportunity. She once said, “Investing in populations with limited net worth is far less costly than the negative social consequences of economic isolation. We must work towards widely shared prosperity as an economic imperative.” In this edition of *Moving Forward*, we profile one of our program staff, highlight a few of our extraordinary 2020 Transportation Scholars, feature one of our HBCU fellows, and share stories of our initiative to engage our state’s HBCUs/MSI with the North Carolina Department of Transportation.

To your journey,
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Meet Our Team: JoAna McCoy



JoAna McCoy, program manager for the Office of HBCU Outreach, was born in Memphis, Tennessee. She obtained a Bachelor of Science in marketing from the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga and a master’s in public administration from Kentucky State University.

After graduating from college, McCoy joined Time Warner Cable as a talent acquisition specialist, which is “a fancy way of saying corporate recruiter”, as she puts it. Before moving to North Carolina and joining the NCDOT team in June 2016, McCoy also worked for the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet, as well as in education and the private sector.

McCoy states that her primary goal for her career is to use her gifts and be a change agent in every role in which she has the privilege of serving.

The Memphis native said what she enjoys most about working as part of the HBCU Outreach staff is engaging with students and staff and sharing the exciting careers that exist in transportation with them. She says many people she meets have “a limited scope of the vastness that is transportation”.

In addition to her work with NCDOT, McCoy serves on the State Employee’s Credit Union’s Advisory Board and likes to volunteer with Dress for Success when possible.

McCoy said she lives by the quote “I am my ancestors’ wildest dream and it’s my responsibility to make the path a bit clearer for those coming behind me.”

Who’s Got Next?

Scholarships Provide Hope in Time of Uncertainty

The Office of HBCU Outreach at the North Carolina Department of Transportation awarded 27 scholarships at the beginning of 2020 to students attending North Carolina’s HBCUs. This scholarship program was established to help students with academic success and remain in school through graduation and to build a pipeline of new transportation leaders.



Demarest Barnes attends Fayetteville State University and is a third year computer science major. Demarest was also a 2019 HBCU summer intern in the Enterprise Applications & Testing Services Unit with NCDIT. In his words Demarest is “blessed and very proud to be a 2020 recipient of the N.C. HBCU/MSI Transportation Scholarship Award. This scholarship is a financial blessing to me and my family as it helped immensely with my college tuition.”

Africa Coardes is a senior at Bennett College. In the fall, she will be attending graduate school in social work at Radford University. For Africa, winning the scholarship “helped take away some of the financial burden of being a first generation college student. I am honored to have been a recipient of this great award.”



Tysean Wooten is a senior at North Carolina Central University majoring in environmental and geospatial science. Receiving the scholarship has “greatly impacted my life from being able to pay for books and part of my tuition, but also pay for my graduation dues. This scholarship has helped me finish my bachelor’s degree and have less financial worry going through my last semester of college.”

Valeria Pacheco, also a 2019 HBCU summer intern, is an aviation science major from Elizabeth City State University. Receiving the scholarship “has helped to pay for my flight training. By removing this financial barrier, I can continue with my education, and not having any financial concerns allows me to improve my time management for studying and learning.”





Antonio Nelson is a first generation college student attending Shaw University from Trinidad and Tobago. "Being the first in my family to attend college was one of my greatest challenges, and this would have been an impossible accomplishment if it wasn't for the lights of God through the help of the HBCU Outreach at the North Carolina Department of Transportation. They helped my family and I in our time of need and made it possible for me to complete attaining my education, graduate and give my parents the chance they never had to attend college through myself."

Kiana Williams is a senior at N.C. A&T State University majoring in supply chain management. She worked in a co-op position with Georgia Pacific and is the first student from N.C. A&T to intern with Chick-fil-A, Inc. Being awarded this scholarship "has allowed me to get closer to my goal of graduating from North Carolina A&T State University by giving me peace of mind to focus on my school work and extracurriculars instead of money for tuition."



The Office of HBCU Outreach at NCDOT also celebrates these 21 Transportation Scholarship Award Recipients:

Balgees Khader	NCAT	Jordan Lewis	NCAT
Brenna Daniel	ECSU	Alexandria Marrow	NCAT
Colin Gilley	Shaw	Abram Miller	NCAT

Borel Begangacha	ECSU	Patrick Stanley	NCAT
Krystal Barnes	NCAT	Jasmine Thomas	NCAT
Adrianna Fields	FSU	Justin Williams	NCAT
Lauren Herring	JCSU	Takia Joseph	NCAT
Carlis Pressley	Livingstone College	Angela Adkins	NCCU
Marvin Edge, Jr.	NCAT	KaLynn Harris	NCCU
Alfadil Ebrahim	NCAT	Alexandria Scott	NCCU
Bilal Issifou	NCAT		

The NCDOT Office of HBCU Outreach is already underway with plans for its 2021 Transportation Scholarship application cycle. According to Al Austin, Director of the Office of HBCU Outreach, “Providing scholarships to students that are excelling academically is the key to building a pipeline of transportation professionals, strong partnerships with institutions of higher education and postures the North Carolina Department of Transportation to compete for talent in this forward-moving transportation industry.”

For more information about scholarships, summer internships, fellowships and research grants, please contact the Office of HBCU Outreach at 919-707-4307 or [visit our webpage](#).

Office of HBCU Outreach on the Move

HBCU Outreach Staff Attends CIAA with Roy Cooper

The staff of the Office of HBCU Outreach at NCDOT attended the 75th Anniversary Tournament of the Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association (CIAA) in February. This event was the last year the tournament will be held in Charlotte, N.C. before moving to Baltimore, Md. in 2021. North Carolina Governor Roy Cooper was on hand to celebrate and deliver a proclamation. CIAA member institutions include: Bowie State, Chowan, Claflin, Elizabeth City State, Fayetteville State, Johnson C. Smith, Lincoln, Saint Augustine's, Shaw, Virginia State, Virginia Union and Winston-Salem State universities and Livingstone College.



Transportation Minority Fellow Spotlight: Tysean Wooten

Engaging HBCU/MSI students in transportation-related research is a key objective of the Office of HBCU Outreach at NCDOT. To support this objective, the office

sponsors several HBCU/MSI students to participate in the Transportation Research Board Minority Student Fellows Program hosted by the TRB and the U.S. Federal Highway Administration.

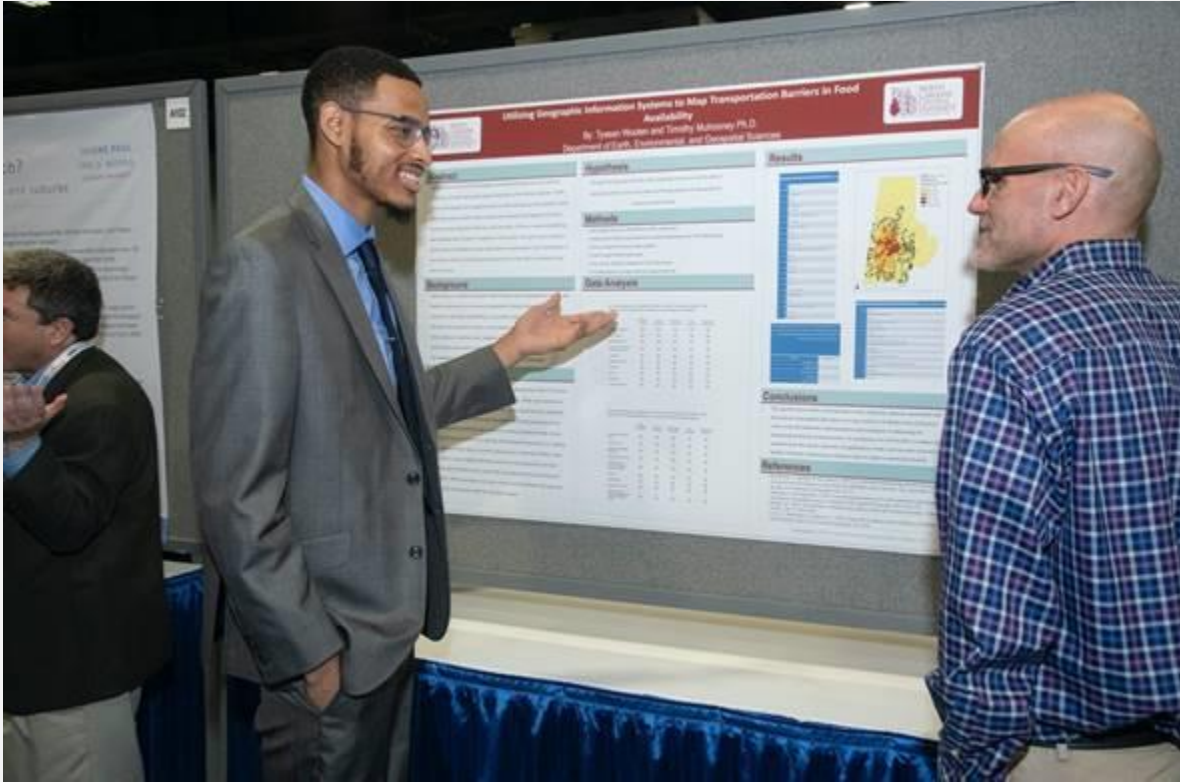
TRB and FHWA recognize the need for all segments of the U.S. population to access safe, reliable, and cost-effective transportation. To ensure that solutions to the nation's transportation problems address people from a variety of backgrounds, TRB established the Minority Student Fellows Program in 2010 to actively explore research, ideas and solutions from diverse perspectives. This program seeks to increase the number of underrepresented minorities in the transportation field and in TRB activities. In spring 2015, FHWA committed to providing additional funding for the program, thus allowing TRB to double the size of the program.



The Fellows Program supports registration, travel, hotel, and related expenses for minority students from eligible minority-serving institutions to attend the TRB Annual Meeting in Washington, D.C., and present their research at a poster or lectern session. Students benefit not only from executing and presenting their research, but also from networking with transportation professionals from around the world and participating in sessions on a variety of topics.

We are happy to highlight North Carolina Central University's Tysean Wooten who participated in the program. Tysean was a senior at NCCU majoring in environmental

and geographical science. His research paper was titled “Utilizing Geographic Information Systems to Map Transportation Barriers in Food Availability”, and he presented a poster presentation among thousands of other students. He was supported by Dr. Timothy Mulrooney, his faculty mentor.



Dr. Mulrooney is associate professor and graduate coordinator of the Department of Environmental, Earth and Geospatial Sciences at North Carolina Central University. He stated, “It was a great experience for [Tysean] and it has been a pleasure seeing him develop his technical skills and foster his ever-important soft skills. He has taken every advantage of scholarship, research and internship opportunities to develop new skills and our department looks forward to him representing NCCU in the workforce in the near future.”

HBCU Fellows Feature: Alexia Edmunds



Meet Alexia Edmunds, a NCDOT HBCU fellow who works within the Customer Compliance Service Unit at the Division of Motor Vehicles.

After graduating from North Carolina Central University with a bachelor's degree in criminal justice and while pursuing a master's degree in public administration, Edmunds searched the state agency website and came across the posting for the fellowship.

"I read the requirements and figured I could try something different instead of going directly into my field to get some experience," Edmunds said. "It was one of the best decisions I made!"

[READ MORE ABOUT ALEXIA](#)

Kickoff Meeting and Transportation Center of Excellence

The NCDOT Office of Research and Development along with NCDOT Chief Deputy Secretary David Howard hosted the kickoff meeting with representatives from the three new Transportation Centers of Excellence on Feb. 25. These centers are led by N.C. State/ITRE, N.C. A & T and UNC HSRC and include a total of nine universities.

Please see [photos from the kickoff event here](#).

Also, please see updated information on each Center of Excellence:

[Advanced Transportation Technology Safety and Policy](#)

[Congestion and Mobility](#)

[Connected and Autonomous Vehicle Technology \(NC-CAV\)](#)

NCDOT NSTI Program Gets

Recognized in *Public Roads*

Winston-Salem State University's [National Summer Transportation Institute](#), the first all-girls NSTI in the nation, was featured in the [spring edition of *Public Roads*](#) (see page 30 of the magazine).

JoAna McCoy, program manager with NCDOT's Office of HBCU Outreach, who oversees the stateside of NSTI stated, "I am thrilled that NCDOT was integral in assisting in funding Winston-Salem State University's first National Summer Transportation Institute Program. I firmly believe that the secret to success is preparation, opportunity and exposure, and WSSU's program provided the framework for the girls to become engaged in the field of transportation."

The NSTI Program is a key component among the Federal Highway Administration's educational initiatives. NSTI is a two- to four-week STEM program aimed at exposing students in middle and high schools – particularly minority, female and disadvantaged youth – to transportation careers and encouraging them to consider transportation-related courses of study in the areas of science, technology and math

2020 Don't Rush Challenge

Check out the [2020 Don't Rush Challenge Video](#), featuring various HBCU chancellors and presidents.

2020 Census: Your Voice Counts

The 2020 Census is extremely important. Please, [share this video](#) and site links with your network. Start here to [take the Census](#).

Office of HBCU Outreach

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Visit our webpage at:
<https://www.ncdot.gov/about-us/board-offices/offices/hbcu/Pages/default.aspx>

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