



N.C. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Office of HBCU Outreach

Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU)

MOVING FORWARD

The Next Generation of Transportation

Al Austin
Director's Message



Happy New Year from the staff and advisory committee of the Office of HBCU Outreach at the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT). It is our hope that this year brings you joy, success and prosperity in reaching all your goals and resolutions.

As I reflect on this past year, we have much to celebrate as it relates to the positive impact our initiative has had on our historically black colleges and universities and minority-serving institution (HBCUs/MSI), the transportation industry and the communities around North Carolina.

The mission of the Office of HBCU at NCDOT is to create inclusion and opportunities for HBCUs/MSIs in the transportation industry.

Our vision is to expand and diversify the transportation industry through the power of inclusion and by strengthening the sustainable impact of North Carolina's historically black colleges and universities.

Office of HBCU Outreach at NCDOT Strategic Plan Link-
<https://www.ncdot.gov/about-us/board-offices/offices/hbcu/Pages/strategic-plan.aspx>)

In this edition of "Moving Forward", we are pleased to share with you various feature stories that illustrate how we are accomplishing our mission of diversity and inclusion in the transportation industry.

Thank you again for your unwavering support in 2019 and we look forward to expanding our initiative in new and exciting ways in years to come.

Mission Accomplished

The Office of HBCU Outreach remains committed to strengthening partnerships with institutions of higher education to transition the best and brightest young professionals into transportation careers. The mission is *"To create inclusion and opportunities for HBCUs/MSIs in the transportation industry."* Within the last two years, NCDOT's Office of HBCU Outreach has made great strides identifying HBCU college graduates for work experiences in the transportation industry. To date, eight Office of HBCU Outreach Program participants accepted permanent full-time positions with the North Carolina Department of Transportation and other transportation organizations.

These young professionals were prepared to compete for these job opportunities because of professional development training and real-world work experience gained working within various divisions and units within NCDOT. The Office of HBCU Outreach applauds these HBCU graduates on their new jobs.



Shazaib Bangash graduated from North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University. He majored in Civil Engineering. Shazaib participated in 2019 with the Office of HBCU Outreach Summer Internship Program. At the end of his internship, he was employed with the NCDOT in the Transportation Engineering Associate Program.



Benjamin Bernard Clark graduated from North Carolina Central University. He majored in Public Administration. Bernard participated in 2017 with the Office of HBCU Outreach Summer Internship Program. At the end of his internship, he was employed with the NCDOT in the Integrated Mobility Division as a Transportation Program Consultant.



Derek Daniels graduated from North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University. He majored in Mechanical Engineering. Derrick participated in 2018 and 2019 with the Office of HBCU Outreach Summer Internship Program. At the end of his internship, he was employed with NCDOT in the Transportation Engineering Associate Program.



Bessie Gilreath graduated from North Carolina Central University. She majored in Public Administration. Bessie participated in 2018 with the Summer Internship Program and 2019 in the HBCU/MSI Fellows Program with the Office of HBCU Outreach. During her participation in the Fellows Program, she was offered and accepted a position with Ramey and Kemp Associates as a Transportation Planning Associate.



Jade Manley graduated from Winston Salem State University. She majored in Political Science. Jade participated in 2016 with the Office of HBCU Outreach Summer Internship Program. At the end of her internship, she was employed with the North Carolina Department of Transportation in the Governance Department as a Board

Liaison/Policy Coordinator. Jade now works with the North Carolina Department of Commerce as a Research and Policy Analyst.



Alexander Oakes graduated from North Carolina Central University. He majored in Earth Environmental and Geographic Science. Alexander participated in 2019 with the Office of HBCU Outreach Summer Internship Program. At the end of his internship, he was employed with the NCDOT Photogrammetry Unit as an Engineering Technician.



Jose Pineda Reyes graduated from Saint Augustine's University. He majored in Engineering Mathematics. Jose participated in 2019 with the Office of HBCU Outreach Summer Internship Program. At the end of his internship, he was employed with the NCDOT Hydraulics Unit as an Engineering Intern.



Johnson C. Smith University
Become yourself. Change our world.



Jordan Shaw is a graduate of Johnson C. Smith University. He majored in Mass Communications. Jordan participated in 2018 with the Office of HBCU Outreach Summer Internship Program. Jordan is employed with Maersk as a Freight Forwarder.

Office of HBCU Outreach on the Move:

Federal Highway Administration Special Recognition

In 2019, the staff at the Office of HBCU Outreach at NCDOT were visited by officials from the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and presented with a declaration of special recognition for our contribution and partnership with the Office of Civil Rights at NCDOT to produce the Southern Transportation Executive Council Training Symposium and Business Expo in Charlotte in August. It was an awesome conference; working with Shelby Scales and the Office of Civil Rights' team was a great experience.



Pictured left to right: John F Sullivan, Division Administrator, FHWA NC; Lynise DeVance, Program Manager, FHWA Civil Rights NC; JoAna McCoy, HBCU Program Manager; Al Austin, HBCU Director; Ashley Houston, HBCU Administrative Specialist and Edward Parker, Deputy Division Administrator, FHWA NC.

NCDOT Historic Botswana Initiative

November 19, 2019 was a historic day at the North Carolina Department of Transportation, where we were honored to host United States Ambassador to the Republic of Botswana Craig Cloud, as well as His Excellency David John Newman, Botswana Ambassador to the United States, for a statewide Botswana Initiative meeting. The staff of the Office of HBCU at NCDOT represented the Department for the statewide initiative.



Office of HBCU Outreach Takes Four N.C. A&T State University Students to Virgin Hyperloop One Headquarters

The summer of 2018 was extraordinary in that through the HBCU Summer Internship Program sponsored by the Office of HBCU Outreach at NCDOT, four students from North Carolina A&T State University were the first HBCU students to experience a week-long immersion at the international headquarters and test site of Virgin Hyperloop One in California and Nevada. They were Dominique Parrish, Morgan Crowder, Teon Parker and Erica Batts. Virgin Hyperloop One is a new mode of transportation that will move people and supply chain needs through a low-pressure tube at speeds up to 600 miles an hour or more.



Please see this [video on Virgin Hyperloop One](#).

NCDOT HBCU/MSI Fellows Visit Department of Labor's Commissioner Cherie K. Berry

During the month of December 2019, HBCU Fellows had the opportunity to visit with North Carolina Commissioner of Labor Cherie K. Berry and William Geringer, Bureau Chief of Mine and Quarry Bureau, to learn about the day-to-day operations of the Department of Labor. Commissioner Berry, who is serving in her fifth term as the head of the Department of Labor, was impressed with the group of fellows. *"It was so wonderful meeting all the bright young professionals with the HBCU Fellows Program,"* Labor Commissioner Berry said. *"I am so impressed with what these young scholars are doing for the NCDOT and it is comforting to know that they are potentially some of the future leaders of North Carolina's state government."*



HBCU Fellows Taking Off with the Global TransPark

North Carolina's 75th Governor, Roy Cooper, chats with NCDOT HBCU Fellows (l-r) Jimmy Davis, Nathan Kemp and Sabria Futrell and Chief Deputy Secretary David Howard about a recent announcement that Aircraft Solutions USA Inc., an aircraft recycling company, will invest nearly \$100 million at the N.C. Global TransPark, creating 475 jobs.

“Our state’s aerospace industry is taking off with the Global TransPark as a hub in rural eastern North Carolina,” said Governor Cooper. “From first in flight to first in skilled workers, global companies like Aircraft Solutions will find North Carolina to be a great place to grow and thrive.”



Who’s Got Next

Securing the Future of Transportation

The NCDOT Office of HBCU Outreach is pleased to announce its 2020 Transportation Scholarship award winners attending North Carolina Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) and Minority Serving Institutions (MSI).

The NCDOT Office of HBCU Outreach is committed to attracting, expanding and diversifying top talent in the transportation industry, offering multiple scholarships, internships and fellowship opportunities to achieve its mission *“to create inclusion and opportunities for HBCUs/MSIs 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 \$2,500 scholarships were available to

all juniors, seniors and master-degree level students in all majors attending HBCU/MSI.

The Office of HBCU Outreach at NCDOT celebrates these 27 Transportation Scholarship Award Recipients:

Africa Coardes	Bennett College	Jordan Lewis	NCAT
Brenna Daniel	ECSU	Alexandria Marrow	NCAT
Colin Giley	ECSU	Abram Miller	NCAT
Valeria Pacheco	ECSU	Patrick Stanley	NCAT
Demarest Barnes	FSU	Jasmine Thomas	NCAT
Adrianna Fields	FSU	Justin Williams	NCAT
Lauren Herring	JCSU	Kiana Williams	NCAT
Carlis Pressley	Livingstone College	Angela Adkins	NCCU
Krystal Barnes	NCAT	Kalynn Harris	NCCU
Alfadil Ebrahim	NCAT	Alexandria Scott	NCCU
Marvin Edge, Jr.	NCAT	Tysean Wooten	NCCU
Bilal Issifou	NCAT	Dereje Dessalegne	Shaw University
Takia Joseph	NCAT	Antonio Nelson	Shaw University
Balgees Khader	NCAT		

The NCDOT Office of HBCU Outreach is already underway with plans for its 2021 Transportation Scholarship application cycle. The application portal will open Oct. 1, 2020. According to Al Austin, Director of the Office of HBCU Outreach, *“Providing scholarships to students that are exceling 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 at <https://www.ncdot.gov/about-us/board-offices/offices/hbcu/Pages/default.aspx>.

Transportation to the Rescue



The North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT), through its Office of HBCU Outreach, is doing its part to help college students get real-world work experience while earning their college degrees.

Housed within the North Carolina Department of Transportation, the Office of HBCU Outreach has been in existence for more than 20 years and continues its charge “to create inclusion and opportunities for historically black colleges and universities and minority-serving institutions (HBCUs/MSIs) in the transportation industry”. The 10-week summer internship is one of the Office’s signature programs. This program hires more than 40 college students from North Carolina’s HBCUs/MSI. These students work and train in the Department’s headquarters, DMV and its 14 divisions across the state.

“This internship program is multifaceted,” said Chief Deputy Secretary David Howard. *“Students gain professional work experience, exposure to the world of transportation and access to transportation career opportunities that make them far more competitive in the workforce. The Office of HBCU Outreach makes advances with*

diversity and inclusion, in addition to gaining the ingenuity and innovation from this tech-savvy generation.”

<https://www.ncdot.gov/initiatives-policies/students-youth/internship-programs/Pages/hbcu-mihe-internship.aspx>

Shining Star

Innovation at Work



Ahmed Zahrani has quickly become an integral part of the Office of Logistics and Freight. After joining the team as a part of the HBCU Fellows Program, Zahrani, an N.C. A&T-trained engineer, brought advanced data analytical skills, programming, and critical thinking to bear on a host of important projects from freight planning to infrastructure investment prioritization. Beyond the data, Zahrani brings an enthusiastic and inquisitive approach to every challenge. An important part of the work done by the Office of Logistics and Freight involves engaging colleagues inside of NCDOT, as well as external stakeholders, and Zahrani shows outstanding, natural interpersonal skills to get the conversation going. The active support of the Office of HBCU Outreach has been a great part of the equation. The program provides professional development opportunities and introduces fellows to innovations such as the Virgin Hyperloop One and Google AI technologies. We are proud of the work Zahrani is doing to advance the priorities of the North Carolina Department of Transportation.

<https://www.ncdot.gov/initiatives-policies/students-youth/hbcu-msi-fellows/Pages/default.aspx>

HBCU Outreach Director Receives MLK Spirit Award

In January, in front of almost 2,000 attendees, our own NCDOT HBCU Outreach Director Al Austin received the MLK Spirit Award at the 26th Annual McCrorey YMCA Prayer Breakfast in Charlotte. The MLK Spirit Award was established to recognize individuals and organizations in the Charlotte community who have made and are making significant contributions to furthering Dr. King's non-violent approach to transforming racial, economic and social injustices.

Alvin "Al" Austin, former Executive Director of McCrorey YMCA, former Development Officer at Johnson C. Smith University and current Historically Black Colleges and Universities Outreach Director for the North Carolina Department of Transportation embodies the spirit, leadership qualities and heart of Dr. King.

In his professional roles, Al has displayed phenomenal leadership skills and determination as he works to move vulnerable populations off the fringes so that they might reach social, political and economic mobility.

He has always placed "people" at the heart of any mission or job that he undertakes, whether working tirelessly to make programs accessible to families when he was at the Y or ensuring a professional path for graduates of HBCUs or even "adopting" three children in the northwest corridor, helping them with their homework, making sure they had funds to attend school functions and providing them with a daily hot meal, Al has a heart for others. Dr. King once said "*There comes a time when one must take a position that is neither safe nor politic nor popular, but he must take it because his conscience tells him it is right.*" We have seen and felt the positions of impact that litter Al Austin's path. And for these reasons we are proud to present him with the 2020 MLK Spirit Award."

Congratulations Al on representing NCDOT, the HBCU Outreach Office and the State of North Carolina so very well!



North Carolina's HBCUs Playing a Key Role as NCDOT Announces Grants for University Research Projects to Improve Transportation



The N.C. Department of Transportation has selected research programs at three public universities to each receive \$1 million grants to study future transportation challenges in N.C. and develop ways to improve safety and mobility.

North Carolina State University, North Carolina A&T State University and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill will spearhead the multi-university research initiatives over the next three years. These new three-year research programs will begin in early 2020.

The research initiative is known as the University Transportation Centers of Excellence. The three universities leading the research will work with transportation experts at Appalachian State University, North Carolina Central University, the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, Duke University and Fayetteville State University.

“Disruptive technologies will reshape the transportation industry,” said State Transportation Secretary Jim Trogdon. *“This research will provide North Carolina with data we need to prepare for these changes.”*

Much of the research will focus on new technology, which is changing the transportation industry significantly. As North Carolina’s population grows, more people are converting to electric, autonomous and other fuel-efficient vehicles. That means that transportation’s main source of funding – the motor fuels tax – is not sustainable.

“North Carolina is uniquely positioned to perform research on transportation technology and enable the progress and improvement of transportation systems while improving on the mobility and safety of our citizens,” said David Howard, Chief Deputy Secretary for the N.C. Department of Transportation. *“This research should lead to North Carolina having competitive advantages in a global economy.”*

2020 Census: What is the Census?

Every North Carolina HBCU/MSI Student Counts!

<https://www.census.gov/library/video/2019/2020-census-what-is-the-census.html>

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