

# Smart & Connected Communities



National Science Foundation  
WHERE DISCOVERIES BEGIN

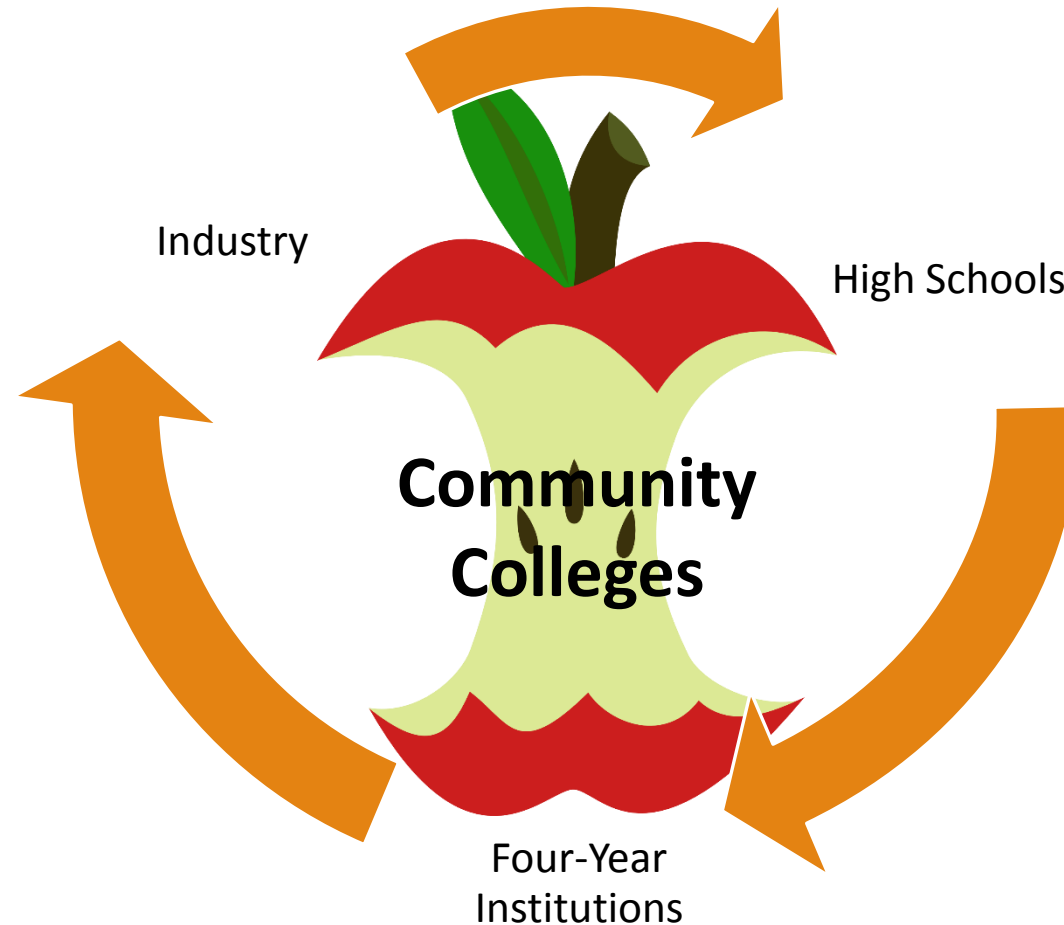
HBCU UP Implementation Projects

Award #0928354   Award #1036239   Award #1533537

# Community Colleges

## The CORE of Smart & Connected Communities

---



# Assets of Community Colleges

---

- Uniquely positioned to grow the pipeline of STEM professionals
- 90 percent of the U.S. population lives within 25 miles of a community college (*American Association of Community Colleges*)
- Already serve many ethnic and racial minorities, who are expected to grow in numbers
- Inexpensive option for the many low-income, low-skilled adults

# Current Work Related to Smart & Connected Communities

---

## ➤ *STEM-UP Academy*

- Pre-College Program Summer STEM Academic Integrated Learning (SSAIL)
- Summer Bridge Programs
- Articulation Agreements with 4-year Institutions

## ➤ *Jackson State University*

- Nanotechnology Summer Research

## ➤ *EducationLogistix*

- Cyberbased Activities – Cybermentoring

## ➤ *University of Mississippi*

- Mississippi Space Grant Consortium

## ➤ *NASA 2015 BalloonSat Workshop*

- Balloon Launch by STEM Students

## ➤ *Partnerships with Industries*

- Visits & Internships



NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center is on Facebook. To connect with NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center, join Facebook today.

Join

Log In



**NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center**  
Amazing aerial shot of U.S. Space & Rocket Center from the Hinds Community College team, from Utica, Mississippi.

#NASAMarshall #STEM

NASA Sponsors BalloonSat Workshop · Feb 6 ·

[View Full Size](#)

# NSA 2015 BalloonSat Workshop



NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center is on Facebook. To connect with NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center, join Facebook today.

Join

Log In



**NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center**  
Several team reached more than 20 miles in altitude, as witnessed by the view from the Hinds Community College balloon, from Utica, Mississippi.

#NASAMarshall #STEM

NASA Sponsors BalloonSat Workshop · Feb 6 ·

[View Full Size](#)

# Important Priorities

---

- Early Research Experience for High School Students
- Research Experience Opportunities for High School and Community College Faculty
- Strong focus on underprepared students, particularly in mathematics

# *Next steps for the field/community...*

---

## ***Nanotechnology Research Experiences***

***Focus on Connecting High School Schools in Rural Communities, Community Colleges & Historically Black Colleges & Universities***

Personal Quality of Life

Community and Environmental Health

Social Well-being

Educational Achievement

Overall Economic Growth and Stability

# Contact Information

---

**Mitchell M. Shears, Ed.D.**

Hinds Community College – Utica Campus

Academic Dean & STEM-UP Academy Project Director

[Email: mitchell.shears@hindsc.edu](mailto:mitchell.shears@hindsc.edu)

Office: 601-885-7004