Smart & Connected Communities
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
NSA 2015 BalloonSat Workshop
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
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