

# DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Historically Black Colleges and Universities and Minority-Serving Institutions  
(HBCU/MI) Opportunities Workshop and Intern Seminar

Expanding the Competitiveness and Research Capacity  
at HBCUs and MIs



July 26-28, 2023

Doubletree Hilton

300 Army Navy Drive, Arlington, VA 22202

July 26, 2023

## Greetings Workshop and Intern Seminar Attendees,

On behalf of the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Research and Engineering (OUSD (R&E)), I extend to each of you a special welcome. Thank you for attending the Department of Defense Historically Black Colleges and Universities and Minority-Serving Institutions (DoD HBCU/MI) Opportunities Workshop and the DoD HBCU/MI Summer Research Internship Intern Seminar. This year we have combined these two events to provide institutions and students information for “Expanding the Competitiveness and Research Capacity at HBCUs and MIs.”

The HBCU/MI community is an integral part of the DoD research activity and is particularly important to our initiatives to enhance Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) education. The DoD is dedicated to increasing the number of opportunities available to minority-serving institutions and their STEM students. This workshop and intern seminar demonstrates the DoD’s desire to invest its resources toward this goal.

The purpose of this workshop and intern seminar is to expand awareness of DoD opportunities, provide a platform for collaboration, and encourage greater participation in the DoD’s initiatives to support national security functions. We hope that you will gain a better understanding of the DoD programs and processes that will lead you to submit competitive proposals and/or applications for funding opportunities, and we encourage students to apply for DoD HBCU/MI STEM opportunities. With attendance by representatives from across the DoD and other Federal agencies, you will also benefit from networking with program managers to strengthen ties and cultivate partnerships. We have planned a full event across three days, and I hope that you do not miss a moment.

Again, welcome to the DoD HBCU/MI Opportunities Workshop and Intern Seminar. I am confident that you will leave with a greater knowledge of our programs and a new enthusiasm for the STEM opportunities available to institutions, staff, and students.

Sincerely,



**Evelyn W. Kent**

**DoD HBCU/MI Program and Outreach Director**



## Evelyn W. Kent

**Director, Historically Black Colleges and Universities and Minority-Serving Institutions Program**

**Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Research and Engineering**

Mrs. Evelyn Kent serves in several capacities within the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Research and Engineering where she provides technical support to the Deputy Chief Technology Officer for Science and Technology. She is the Department of Defense (DoD) Program Director for the Historically Black Colleges and Universities and Minority-Serving Institutions (HBCU/MI) Program. In this capacity, she oversees the HBCU/MI Programs, which include Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSI), Tribal Colleges and Universities (TCU), Asian American (AA), Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islanders (NHPI), and other underrepresented minority communities. These program funds support basic research, equipment and instrumentation upgrades, graduate fellowships, scholarships, research and education centers, and other activities focused on attracting underrepresented minorities to the science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) disciplines important to the DoD national security mission.

Mrs. Kent represents the DoD on the White House Initiatives Executive Orders for HBCUs and MIs. Her career spans over 40 years of government service in the information technology, weapon systems acquisition, international affairs, environmental life sciences, and the command, control, and intelligence environment.

Mrs. Kent holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Mathematics from Southern University Baton Rouge and a Master of Science degree in Acquisitions Administration from Central Michigan University. She is also a graduate of the Federal Executive Institute Leadership Program in Charlottesville, VA. Mrs. Kent is the recipient of the Department of Defense Exceptional Civilian Service Award. Mrs. Kent's awards also include the 2012 Women of Color STEM Career Achievement award.

## DAY 1 AGENDA – JULY 26, 2023

<b>5:00pm – 6:00pm</b>	<b>Registration/Check-In</b>	<i>Commonwealth Foyer, South Tower Lower Lobby</i>
<b>6:00pm – 6:10pm</b>	<b>Welcome/Introductions</b>	<i>Commonwealth, South Tower Lower Lobby</i>
	<b>Evelyn Kent</b> Director, DoD HBCU/MI Program and Outreach (OUSD(R&E))	
<b>6:10pm – 6:30pm</b>	<b>Keynote Speaker</b>	<i>Commonwealth, South Tower Lower Lobby</i>
	<b>Lisa Smith</b> Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Product Support, Principal Advisor to the Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD)	
<b>6:30pm – 7:30pm</b>	<b>Meet and Greet</b>	<i>Commonwealth, South Tower Lower Lobby</i>
	<b>Edward Lee</b> Senior Management Analyst, Program Coordinator, HBCUs/MIs for the Air Force Office of Scientific Research (AFOSR)	

## DAY 2 AGENDA – JULY 27, 2023

**8:00am – 8:50am**      **Registration/Check-In**      *Crystal Ballroom Foyer, North Tower Lobby*

**9:00am – 9:05am**      **Welcome/Introductions**      *Crystal Ballroom, North Tower Lobby*

**Evelyn Kent**

Director, DoD HBCU/MI Program and Outreach (OUSD(R&E))

**9:10am – 9:30am**      **Opening Remarks or Keynote Address**      *Crystal Ballroom, North Tower Lobby*

**Janeen Uzzell**

Chief Executive Officer, National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE)

**9:35am – 10:25am**      **Funding Opportunities Services'**      *Crystal Ballroom, North Tower Lobby*

### **Research Offices and Defense Agencies**

*The Defense Advanced Session will feature Program Managers from the Army, Navy, Air Force, and the Defense Threat Reduction Agency presenting new initiatives and opportunities for research funding in novel and cutting-edge topics of interest to DoD.*

**Moderator: Patrice Collins**

Branch Chief, Educational Outreach, U.S. Army Combat Capabilities

Development Command Army Research Laboratory

**Panelists:**

**Travis King**

Director for Basic Research and STEM Outreach, Office of the Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army (Research & Technology)

**Anthony Smith**

Director of the Navy's Historically Black Colleges and Universities and Minority Institutions Programs at the Office of Naval Research

**Treniece Terry**

Technical Engagements Program Manager, Defense Threat Reduction Agency

**Lovica Ware**

Senior Plans and Programs Engineer and Deputy Chief, Development Planning Division, Office of the Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Science, Technology, and Engineering

**Ellen Robinson**

Program Manager, NDSEG, Air Force Office of Scientific Research

**Katie Wisecarver**

Senior Research Psychologist, Air Force Office of Scientific Research

**10:30am – 11:25am**

**DARPAConnect**

*Crystal Ballroom, North Tower Lobby*

*The Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) DARPAConnect initiative seeks to broaden DARPA's reach and stimulate growth and collaboration with small businesses and education institutions new to the national security space. During this session, panelists will share information about DARPA, strategies for effectively engaging with DARPA Program Managers, understanding the proposal process, and building an effective team, along with additional strategies for success. Come learn how you can engage and partner with us.*

**Moderator: Jess Resig**

Director of Solutions Innovation, Applied Research Institute, Inc.

**Panelists:**

**Benjamin Griffin**

Program Manager, Microsystems Technology Office, DARPA

**Reginald Cooper**

Program Manager, Strategic Technology Office

**John Rosenthal**

President, Tougaloo College Research and Development Foundation

**11:30am – 11:45am**

**Break**

**11:50am – 12:25pm**

**Small Business Innovation**

*Crystal Ballroom, North Tower Lobby*

**Research/Small Business Technology**

**Transfer (SBIR/STTR) Program**

**Presentations**

*This session will cover what SBIR/STTR is and how HBCUs/MIs can contribute. We will also cover the SBIR/STTR management functions, the statutory origins, mission and goals, program phases, process, schedule, and the DSIP portal.*

**Susan Celis**

**Director, Defense SBIR/STTR Program Office, Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Research and Engineering**

**Anissa Lumpkin**

**Mission Area Lead, Aeromedical (Acting), Air Force Research Laboratory / Customer Engagement Directorate**

**12:30pm – 1:25pm**

**Working/Networking Lunch**

*Crystal Ballroom, North Tower Lobby*

**Vallen Emery**

**Outreach Program Manager, U.S. Army Combat Capabilities Development Command Army Research Laboratory**

**1:30pm – 2:15pm**

**Budget, Contracting, Grants, and**

*Crystal Ballroom, North Tower Lobby*

**Agreements – Army Contracting**

**Command**

*This session will lay the groundwork for developing applications with sound budgets and understanding how to successfully work with DoD contracting and grants officers (pre-award to post-award) and the impact of COVID-19.*

**Vonetta McNeal**

**Division Chief, Army Contracting Command Aberdeen Proving Ground  
Research Triangle Park Division**

**Lanelle Shands**

Branch Chief, Army Contracting Command Aberdeen Proving Ground  
Research Triangle Park Division

**William Creech**

Team Leader - ARO-1 ESD, Army Contracting Command Aberdeen Proving  
Ground Research Triangle Park Division

**Patty Fox**

Procurement Analyst, Army Contracting Command Aberdeen Proving  
Ground's Strategic Initiatives Group

**2:30pm- 3:30pm**

**Breakout Sessions**

*Potomac View, Monument View, Capital  
View, Liberty – North Tower 14<sup>th</sup> floor*

**Administrators, Faculty, and Researchers**

*DoD Program Managers will discuss Multidisciplinary University Research Initiative (MURI),  
Defense University Research Instrumentation Program (DURIP), Minerva Research Initiative,  
Vannevar Bush Faculty Fellowship (VBFF), Laboratory University Collaboration Initiative  
(LUCI), Young Investigator Program (YIP), National Defense Education Program (NDEP), Oak  
Ridge Associated Universities (ORAU), National Defense Science and Engineering Graduate  
(NDSEG) Fellowship, and Defense Agency Programs.*

**Breakout 1: MURI, DURIP, and MINERVA**

**Lisa Troyer**

Principal Deputy, Office for Cross-Competency Program Integration

**Katie Wisecarver**

Senior Research Psychologist, Air Force Office of Scientific Research

**Breakout 2: VBFF, LUCI, and YIP**

**Reginald Williams**

Director/Program Manager, Office of Naval Research

**Edward Lee**

Senior Management Analyst, Program Coordinator, HBCUs/MIs for the Air  
Force Office of Scientific Research (AFOSR)

### **Breakout 3: NDEP, ORAU, and NDSEG**

#### **Louie Lopez**

Director, DoD STEM, OUSD(R&E) Basic Research Office

#### **Ellen Robinson**

Program Manager, NDSEG, Air Force Office of Scientific Research

#### **Lisa Meinke**

Project Manager, ORAU Government Services – Research Programs

### **Breakout 4: Defense Agency Programs**

#### **Anthony Smith**

Director of the Navy's Historically Black Colleges and Universities and  
Minority Institutions Programs at the Office of Naval Research

#### **Treniece Terry**

Technical Engagements Program Manager, Defense Threat Reduction Agency

### **Summer Research Program**

*Jackson/Wilson/Harrison South Tower  
Lobby*

### **Participants**

*Presentations to the Summer Research Program participants will include career advice and other topics relevant to students and recent graduates.*

### **Breakout 1: Army and Navy**

#### **Patrice Collins**

Branch Chief, Educational Outreach, U.S. Army Combat Capabilities  
Development Command Army Research Laboratory

#### **Gary Estep**

Senior Network Engineer, DoD HBCU/MI Summer Research Internship  
Program Site Coordinator and Mentor, Data Analytics, Infrastructure and  
Technology Advancement (DAiTA), Department of the Navy

**Breakout 2: Air Force and Cost Analysis and Program Evaluation (CAPE)**

**Asheley Blackford**

Program Manager, Air Force Research Laboratory Minority Leaders –  
Research Collaboration Program (ML-RCP)

**Lauren Rottler**

Business Operations and Human Resources Strategist, Enterprise Services  
Division, Cost Analysis and Program Evaluation, Office of the Secretary of  
Defense

**3:45pm - 4:00pm**

**Application Submission Tips**

*Crystal Ballroom North Tower Lobby*

*This session will provide attendees with application submission tips for both interns and facility/administrators/and staff. Application submission tips will cover timelines, submission requirements, and organization of data.*

**Monique Wright**

DoD HBCU/MI Program Coordinator, U.S. Army Combat Capabilities  
Development Command Army Research Laboratory

**4:05pm – 4:15pm**

**Wrap-up/Closing Remarks**

*Crystal Ballroom North Tower Lobby*

**Evelyn Kent**

Director, DoD HBCU/MI Program and Outreach (OUSD(R&E))

## DAY 3 AGENDA – JULY 28, 2023

<b>8:00am – 8:50am</b>	<b>Registration/Check-In</b>	<i>Crystal Ballroom Foyer, North Tower Lobby</i>
<b>9:00am – 9:10am</b>	<b>Opening Remarks</b>	<i>Crystal Ballroom Foyer, North Tower Lobby</i>
	<b>Evelyn Kent</b> Director, DoD HBCU/MI Program and Outreach (OUSD(R&E))	
<b>9:15am – 9:45am</b>	<b>Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) Workforce Program</b>	<i>Crystal Ballroom Foyer, North Tower Lobby</i>
	<i>This session will cover the Science, Mathematics, and Research for Transformation (SMART) Program.</i>	
	<b>Brandon Cochenour</b> Program Manager, Department of Defense SMART Scholarship-for-Service Program	
	<b>Louie Lopez</b> Director, DoD STEM, OUSD(R&E) Basic Research Office	
<b>9:50am – 11:50am</b>	<b>Poster Presentations – Summer Research Interns and Mentors</b>	<i>Lincoln Hall, North Tower Lower Lobby</i>
<b>12:00pm – 12:15pm</b>	<b>Wrap- Up/Closing Remarks</b>	<i>Crystal Ballroom Foyer, North Tower Lobby</i>
	<b>Evelyn Kent</b> Director, DoD HBCU/MI Program and Outreach (OUSD(R&E))	
	<b>Patrice Collins</b> Branch Chief, U.S. Army Combat Capabilities Development Command Army Research Laboratory	



## Asheley Blackford

**Program Manager**

**Air Force Research Laboratory Minority Leaders - Research  
Collaboration Program (ML-RCP)**

Ms. Asheley Blackford serves as the Program Manager for the Air Force Research Laboratory Minority Leaders - Research Collaboration Program (ML-RCP) working with many universities and colleges across the nation. Ms. Blackford has been a part of the Materials and Manufacturing Directorate (AFRL/RX) of the Air Force Research Laboratory since 2009. Prior to working with the ML-RCP, Ms. Blackford was the Deputy Small Business Innovation Research and Small Business Technology Transfer (SBIR/STTR) Program Manager for AFRL/RX and has experience in working with small businesses. In addition to working this program, Ms. Blackford also manages other Government contracts for her Directorate and is actively involved with multiple organizations across AFRL. She is excited and eager to continue her engagement in working with academia and the scientists and engineers at AFR.



## Susan Celis

**Director, Defense SBIR/STTR Program Office**

**Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Research and  
Engineering**

Ms. Celis has served the Department of Defense (DoD) for over 34 years; starting at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers from 1988 until 2004, where she held a variety of positions in financial management, personnel management, program analysis/management, computer information systems development, and training. It was during this period in her career that she became involved with the Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR)/Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) programs. Next, she served as the U.S. Army SBIR Program Manager from 2004-2008, where she developed and successfully implemented several program and system modernization initiatives. For 11 years she served as the SBIR/STTR Program Manager at the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) where she focused on creating an environment that considers small business concerns as a primary source of innovative solutions. In 2019, she joined the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Research and Engineering to unify and manage the SBIR/STTR programs across the Department. Ms. Celis holds a Bachelor of Science in Management and

Computer Information Systems from Park University, and a Master of Public Administration from American University.



## Brandon Cochenour

### **Program Manager**

### **DoD SMART Scholarship-for-Service Program**

Dr. Brandon Cochenour is the Program Manager for the Department of Defense (DoD) SMART Scholarship-for-Service Program. Executed within the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Research and Engineering (OUSD(R&E)), the SMART Program is the DoD's largest science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) workforce development program. The SMART Program aims to create a highly skilled DoD STEM workforce by awarding scholarships for undergraduate, master's, and doctoral students pursuing a degree in a STEM discipline critical to future national security. SMART scholars receive full tuition, annual stipends, internships, and guaranteed employment with the DoD after graduation. In his role as SMART Program Manager, Dr. Cochenour provides vision and sets policy for the direction of the SMART Program and oversees the program's \$100M+ annual budget. Dr. Cochenour also serves as the SMART Program's Cooperative Agreement Manager, ensuring that OUSD(R&E) is able to effectively administer the SMART Program in cooperation with the participating DoD Components, laboratories, and industry partners.

From 2004-2020, Dr. Cochenour was a DoD civilian scientist and engineer at the Naval Air Warfare Center Aircraft Division (NAWCAD) at Patuxent River, MD, where he led basic and applied research in underwater laser communications, underwater laser imaging, and oceanographic remote sensing. His research has been funded by NAWCAD, the Office of Naval Research, and the National Geospatial Intelligence Agency. As a NAWCAD Associate Fellow, he provided technical expertise to various program management offices across the Navy and collaborated with industry and small business on the development of new technologies for future maritime sensing systems.

In 2019, Dr. Cochenour received the Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers (PECASE), the highest honor bestowed by the U.S. Government on outstanding early-career scientists and engineers, for his contributions to the field of underwater optical communications and for initiating the Navy's foundational work investigating the behavior of twisted light in the ocean for remote sensing. His work on twisted light beams in the ocean also earned recognition as a DoD Scientist of the Quarter in 2019 by OUSD(R&E). Dr. Cochenour was named a Dr. Delores Etter Top Navy Scientist of the Year in 2006 for his contributions to underwater optical communications for Naval applications, and again in 2012 and 2018 with his NAWCAD colleagues for their development and demonstration of next-

generation laser imaging systems for mine warfare missions. In 2009, he was named the Maryland Academy of Sciences Outstanding Young Engineer. Dr. Cochenour holds degrees in electrical and computer engineering from North Carolina State University (Ph.D.), Johns Hopkins University (MS) and Lafayette College (BS). He has over 50 publications, six patents, and one book chapter which have been referenced over 1,800 times in the scientific literature, leading to an h-index of 24. He is a senior member of the IEEE and serves as an Associate Editor of the IEEE Journal of Oceanic Engineering.



## Patrice Collins

**Branch Chief, Educational Outreach**

**U.S. Army Combat Capabilities Development Command Army  
Research Laboratory**

Dr. Patrice Collins has the distinct recognition as being the first African American woman graduate from Delaware State University's Applied Mathematics and Theoretical Physics Program. Researching numerical approximation to ordinary and partial differential equations, her expertise has led developments in finite elements, numerical and analytical methods in solid mechanics and optical science, and finite difference methods. As a graduate student, Dr. Collins led an array of diverse undergraduate and graduate level research and outreach programs. Serving as the Associate Director of the Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation (AMP) Program; she assisted the development and operation of the AMP student organization, Girls Explorations in Mathematics and Science (GEMS), and the Bridge to the Doctorate (BTD). She also resurrected the Graduate Student Organization serving as President for three years.

After earning her Ph.D., she has served as an Assistant Professor and Deputy Director of Research for the Mathematical Sciences Center of Excellence at the United States Military Academy (USMA) in the Department of Mathematical Sciences. She managed the joint USMA/Combat Capabilities Development Command-Army Research Laboratory (DEVCOM-ARL), Academic Individual Advanced Development program and Faculty Research program. She was an active member of the Center for Leadership and Diversity in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM). Her involvement assisted in the development and implementation of various STEM workshops for students across the country. Her passion for teaching and mentoring extended beyond the classroom, where she was active as a Faculty Representative and Assistant Coach of the women's boxing team.

During her tenure at USMA, Dr. Collins was granted a Davies Fellowship through the National Research Council to perform collaboration projects with the Army Research Laboratory. Through the Davies Fellowship Program, she has collaborated with several scientists within the Weapons and Materials Research and Vehicle Technology Directorates studying traumatic brain injury on both the macro and

nano scales. Dr. Collins has been recognized for her work in outreach and academics. She has been the recipient of the NSBE Janice A. Lumpkin Educator of the year award, Minority Access National Role Model Award, and AMP Excellence Award in Engineering and Science Education. Additionally, she has published and presented widely in areas of optics and numerical analysis.

Dr. Collins began working at DEVCOM-ARL in February of 2015, as a Special Programs Outreach Coordinator. She now serves as the Educational Outreach Branch Chief. In this capacity, she oversees the Army Research Laboratory's Outreach Portfolio which includes K-12 STEM, Military Engagement/ Outreach, Internship and Fellowship Programs, Army Educational Outreach Program Apprenticeships, and other special customer funded efforts. She also manages programs to enable scientist with building collaborations with academia to foster institutional advancement and build research capacity.



## Reginald Cooper

**Program Manager**

**Strategic Technology Office**

Dr. Reginald Cooper joined DARPA in February 2022 as a program manager in the Strategic Technology Office. Before his arrival, he was a senior research electronics engineer in the Air Force Research Laboratory Sensors Directorate. Cooper earned a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering from Southern University and A&M College, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, and master's and doctorate degrees in electrical & computer engineering from Carnegie Mellon University. Cooper started his research career in the Air Force Minority Leaders Research Collaboration Program developing wireless communications for cognitive radio networks in a dynamic wireless environment. Through the years, his research has expanded to include other radio frequency (RF) sensors and systems, but with a focus on electromagnetic warfare systems. Furthermore, Cooper enjoys giving back through mentorship and strives to inspire others to excel in the science, technology, engineering, and math fields.



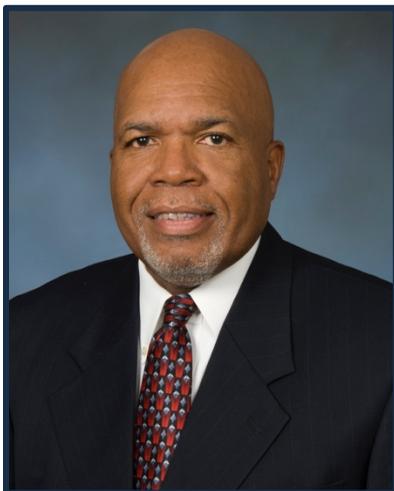
## William Creech

**Team Leader - ARO-1 ESD**

**Army Contracting Command Aberdeen Proving Ground Research  
Triangle Park Division**

William A. Creech serves as a Team Leaders for the Army Contracting Command – Aberdeen Proving Grounds, Research Triangle Park Division, located in Research Triangle Park, North Carolina. Mr. Creech primarily supports the Army Research Office (ARO). Mr. Creech began his Federal Career in 2008 with the Army Contracting Command. During his time with the Army Contracting Command, Mr. Creech has worked action in support of the COVID-19 Pandemic response, University Affiliated Research Centers (UARCs), and a variety of procurement contracts and assistance instruments helping the Army Research Office execute its mission. Mr. Creech started with the Army Contracting Command - Aberdeen Proving Grounds, Research Triangle Park Division in 2008 as an intern and has worked as a Contract Specialist, Contracting Officer, and now a Team Leader.

Mr. Creech earned his Bachelor of Business Administration in Computer Information Systems with a minor in management as well as his Master of Business Administration with concentrations in management and marketing, both in 2008, from Campbell University. Mr. Creech has extensive knowledge of the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR), Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement (DFARS), Army Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement (AFARS), the Department of Defense Grant and Agreement Regulations (DODGARS) and 2 CFR 200. Mr. Creech is a member of the Army Acquisition Corps, Graduate of the Army Management Staff College CES Advanced Course, and is Level III Certified in Contracting through the Department of Defense.



## Vallen Emery

**Outreach Program Manager**

**U.S. Army Combat Capabilities Development Command Army  
Research Laboratory**

Dr. Vallen L. Emery, Jr. currently serves as the outreach program manager for the U.S. Army Combat Capabilities Development Command's Army Research Laboratory (ARL). His efforts have contributed to the development of ARL's educational outreach

strategies regarding the shortfall of engineers and scientists entering the Federal workforce. Currently, Dr. Emery is working with the Deputy Undersecretary of Army and the Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army (Research and Technology) to develop and implement a comprehensive and cohesive strategy to enhance the Army's engagement with the minority academic community.

Prior to joining ARL, Dr. Emery served as a Research Biologist for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Waterways Experiment Station (WES), located in Vicksburg, Mississippi. While at WES, Dr. Emery helped establish a R&D program that focused on aquatic bioassay test development, aquatic toxicity testing of military unique compounds and ecological risk assessment. Several chronic bioassays were developed by the R&D team and are nationally used to assist local governments in determining the impact of low-level contaminant exposures on ecosystems. Dr. Emery also served as the Director of Special Projects and Marketing at Johns Hopkins in Baltimore, Maryland, before serving in his position at WES.

Dr. Emery holds a bachelor's degree in chemistry from Morgan State University, a master's degree in marine Estuarine and Environmental Science from the University of Maryland Eastern Shore, and a doctorate degree in Marine, Estuarine and Environmental Science from the University of Maryland College Park.



## Gary Estep

**Senior Network Engineer, DoD HBCU/MI Summer Research Internship Program Site Coordinator and Mentor**

**Data Analytics, Infrastructure and Technology Advancement (DAiTA), Department of the Navy**

Mr. Estep was born September 1963 in Washington, D.C. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Computer Science in 1985 from Mississippi Valley State University in Itta Bena, MS.

His career began with Unisys Corporation in July 1985, writing software code for various Navy standard computers used in Antisubmarine Warfare Operational Centers. Over the next several years, he worked for several other government support contractor firms including Veda, TRW, and J.F. Taylor, completing tasks of increasing complexity in the programming and software development arena for naval messaging systems on surface vessels in the U.S. Fleet. This experience enabled him to gain valuable experience in project scheduling and management of software development teams.

In 1993, Mr. Estep took a position with the Department of Commerce in Washington, D.C. where he managed and executed the prototyping, analysis, design, development, and integration of interactive weather display systems for delivery of satellite imagery to over 190 National Weather Service sites

nation-wide. He used his previous experience in software development and testing as the catalyst to lead other software development teams in determining how best to deliver software systems electronically to field sites.

In 1996, Mr. Estep accepted a government position with the Naval Air Systems Command at Patuxent River, Maryland as the Navigation/Combat Identification Branch Data Reduction, Analysis and Management System ADP Computer Facility Team Lead. In June 1998, Mr. Estep was specifically invited to join the Air Interoperability Center team, a new program created to improve the interoperability of research and developmental testing capabilities used to evaluate the technical performance of new aircraft and surface ship weapon systems for naval and joint applications. Mr. Estep and his wife Carol have two children (Sharde Estep 2013 Computer Science Graduate of Hampton University & Lovell 2019 Computer Science Graduate of Morgan State University) and live Aquasco, Maryland.



## Patty Fox

### **Procurement Analyst**

### **Army Contracting Command Aberdeen Proving Ground's Strategic Initiatives Group**

Ms. Patricia J. Fox currently serves as a Procurement Analyst in Army Contracting Command – Aberdeen Proving Ground's (ACC-APG's) Strategic Initiatives Group. Ms. Fox is a Subject Matter Expert on Research & Development (R&D) contracting and specialized funding instruments (e.g., grants, cooperative agreements, other transaction agreements (OTs) for Research, OTs for Prototypes, and partnership intermediary agreements (PIAs).

She trains, mentors, and consults on R&D contracting and the use of specialized funding instruments for U.S Army Research Laboratory, ACC-APG and other ACC and Army organizations. She is a member of Army and DoD working groups related to R&D contracting and specialized funding instruments. These specialized funding instruments provide excellence in R&D contracting and assistance solutions in support of requirements for highly specialized new or innovative research, related materials and services needed to provide the underpinning science, technology and analysis that enable full- spectrum U.S. Army operations.

Ms. Fox earned a bachelor's degree in business management from the University of Maryland. She holds a master's degree in science and technology commercialization from the University of Texas at Austin. Ms. Fox is a former ACC-APG Division Chief, she completed a Training with Industry Assignment, an Army Senior Leadership Development Program as well other leadership training.



## Benjamin Griffin

**Program Manager**

**Microsystems Technology Office, DARPA**

Dr. Benjamin Griffin joined DARPA in October 2018 as a program manager in the Microsystems Technology Office. Prior to joining DARPA, Dr. Griffin was a principal member of technical staff in the MEMS technologies department at Sandia National Laboratories. At Sandia, he led research programs in the area of MEMS sensors, actuators, and resonators with a focus on next-generation piezoelectric devices and materials. Preceding his position at Sandia, Dr. Griffin spent more than two years with the Interdisciplinary Consulting Corporation, developing sensing technologies for aerospace applications. Dr. Griffin received his Bachelor of Science and Master of Science degrees in aerospace engineering, and his Doctor of Philosophy degree in mechanical engineering from the University of Florida while on a National Science Foundation graduate research fellowship.



## Travis King

**Director for Basic Research and STEM Outreach**

**Office of the Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army (Research & Technology)**

Dr. Travis King serves as the Director for Basic Research and STEM Outreach in the Office of the Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army (Research & Technology) (DASA(R&T)). In this role he is responsible for Headquarters, Department of the Army (HQDA) oversight and coordination of the Army Basic Research portfolio. He represents the portfolio within HQDA, to Congress, to the Office of the Secretary of Defense, to other Defense Services and Agencies, and to external stakeholders. He also oversees the Army S&T Enterprise's STEM and HBCU/MI outreach efforts. From 2017 until 2019, Dr. King served as the Deputy Director for Integration in the Office of the DASA(R&T), assisting the Director for Integration in coordination and oversight of the Army's Technology Maturation Initiative, Manufacturing Technology, Red Teaming, and Joint Capability Technology Demonstration (JCTD) programs. Dr. King also assisted in development of Army-wide Science & Technology policies, coordination of briefings to senior Army and OSD leaders, and other activities requiring coordination across DASA(R&T) technical portfolios.

From 2009 until 2017 Dr. King served in various roles within the U.S. Army Engineer Research and

Development Center (ERDC). As ERDC Liaison Officer to DASA(R&T), he facilitated the exchange of information between ERDC, DASA(R&T), and other HQDA entities. Specific responsibilities included assisting in the preparation of annual budget cycle documents and briefings and explaining and defending high priority ERDC programs. Dr. King served as a researcher at the ERDC laboratory in Champaign, Illinois from 2009-2015, investigating bioinspired sensors and responsive materials for chemical sensing of environmental contaminants to protect Army ranges and installations. Dr. King received his Ph.D. in chemistry from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign for his research into fluid transport and chemical reactivity in micro- and nanofluidic systems, and a Bachelor of Science degree from Ohio Northern University.



## Edward Lee

**Senior Management Analyst, Program Coordinator**

**HBCUs/MIs for the Air Force Office of Scientific Research (AFOSR)**

Mr. Edward J. Lee is the Program Coordinator for Historically Black Colleges and Minority Institutions (HBCU/MI's) for the Air Force Office of Scientific Research (AFOSR) in Arlington, VA, one of the nine directorates that comprise the Air Force Research Laboratory (AFRL). He is responsible for coordinating activities that provide funding support to minority institutions across the nation. Mr. Lee has worked for the AFOSR since 1997, initially overseeing the University Research Initiative program. Ed is also a graduate from an HBCU, Morgan State University in Baltimore, Maryland and in 2013 authored his first book, *The Soul of Man*.



## Louie Lopez

**Director, DoD STEM**

**OUSD(R&E) Basic Research Office**

Mr. Louie Lopez is the Director of the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) in the Office of the Undersecretary of Defense in Research and Engineering's (OUSD/R&E), Basic Research Office. Mr. Lopez is responsible for the management and execution of the Department of Defense (DoD) K through Graduate STEM efforts under the National Defense

Education Program (NDEP). His responsibilities include the Science, Mathematics, and Research Transformation (SMART) scholarship, Manufacturing Engineering Education Program, and STEM education and outreach initiatives under the Defense STEM Education Consortium (DSEC) cooperative agreement award in collaboration with partners from academia, industry, and other community organizations with a shared mission in STEM. He serves on a variety of Federal interagency working groups as part of the Federal Coordination on STEM Education. He is also responsible for developing policy, strategic direction, and coordination of STEM education activities across the Department to ensure alignment with DoD and Federal STEM Education Strategic plans.

Previously, Mr. Lopez served as the chief of STEM Education and Outreach for the U.S. Army Futures Command's Combat Capabilities Development Command (DEVCOM), overseeing STEM efforts across the enterprise to engage and support command-wide STEM initiatives. His responsibilities included the technical and fiscal oversight of the Army Educational Outreach Program (AEOP) cooperative agreement award on behalf of the Army science and technology community and the Office of the Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army for Research and Technology (DASA R&T).

Mr. Lopez also managed the Army, Navy, and Air Force Junior Science & Humanities Symposium high school research competition on behalf of AEOP. In 2017, Mr. Lopez served as the Acting Chief of Human Capital and talent management for CCDDC. In 2017-2018, Mr. Lopez also served as the COR on the U.S. Army Manufacturing Technology (ManTech) program support contract at DEVCOM.

Prior to serving in the Federal Government in 2011, Mr. Lopez worked as Director of a pre-collegiate STEM education program in the Mathematics, Engineering and Science Achievement (MESA) at the Lyles College of Engineering, at California State University, Fresno from 2006-2011, and previously served as Associate Director for University of California's MESA Program at California State University, Fullerton from 1998 to 2005. From 1999-2003, he taught computer science courses at California State University, Fullerton. He proudly served in the United States Marine Corps.

Mr. Lopez earned his bachelor's degree in mathematics from the University of California, San Diego, and master's degree in educational technology from National University in San Diego, California. Mr. Lopez successfully completed the OPM sponsored Aberdeen Proving Ground Senior Leadership Course as part of COHORT 8 in 2016-2017.



## Anissa Lumpkin

**Mission Area Lead, Aeromedical (acting)**

**Air Force Research Laboratory, Customer Engagement Directorate**

Ms. Anissa Lumpkin, member of the government civilian corps, is the Mission Area Lead, Aeromedical (*acting*) for the Air Force Research Laboratory (AFRL), Customer Engagement Directorate. In this role she advises the AFRL Enterprise with utilizing operational Major Command (MAJCOM) and Department of the Air Force (DAF) engagement for promotion and alignment of Science & Technology (S&T) capability development efforts intended to address DAF mission area shortfalls and priorities.

Serving the US Air Force for nearly 20 years, Ms. Lumpkin's experienced service has included both active duty and reserve time in the United States Air Force along with civilian time in the areas of Systems Engineering and Acquisitions. Ms. Lumpkin's career began in 2001, serving as an active-duty Acquisitions Officer in support of warfighter training, common operating systems, and unmanned combat air systems for the Aeronautical Systems Center. In 2009, she transitioned to a federal civil service as an Operations Research Analyst for the Air Force Research Laboratory (AFRL).

Ms. Lumpkin served on special assignment as the AFRL Legislative Liaison serving the AFRL Commander, she assisted with all aspects of hearing preparations for senior-level officials and congressional briefings, as well as analyzing, researching, and formulating official responses to requests from Members of Congress. As the AFRL, Air Force Small Business Innovation Research/Small Business Technology Transfer (AF SBIR/STTR) Program Manager. Ms. Lumpkin directed an over \$800M research budget focused on qualified small businesses in the nation's high-tech arena as a critical source of innovative. Ms. Lumpkin led thousands of yearly contract efforts sponsored by Air Force organizations from across the nation. Ms. Lumpkin is the founder of the Air Force Historical Black Colleges and Universities/Minority Serving Institutions (HBCU/MSI) Outreach Initiative, a program that focuses on increasing research capacities at HBCUs and Minority Serving Institutions.

Graduating from Tennessee State University earning a BS in Aeronautical and Industrial Engineering Technology, Ms. Lumpkin also went on to earn an MS in Public Administration from Central Michigan University, and Emerging Leadership, Graduate Certification from the University of Dayton.



## Vonetta McNeal

**Division Chief, Army Contracting Command**

**Aberdeen Proving Ground Research Triangle Park Division**

Vonetta G. McNeal serves as Division Chief for the Army Contracting Command- Aberdeen Proving Ground, Research Triangle Park Division, NC providing support to Army Futures Command, Army Research Laboratory (ARL), Army Research Institute (ARI) and the United States Military Academy at WestPoint. She has over 20 years of procurement and acquisition

management experience that extends across the acquisition spectrum after serving in various capacities from Branch Chief, Contracting Officer, Agreements Officer to Grants Officer.

Ms. McNeal is a graduate of North Carolina Central University with a Bachelor of Arts degree in political science and a concentration in public administration. She obtained her master's degree in management with a Concentration in Acquisition and Contract Management from the Florida Institute of Technology. Ms. McNeal began her career with the Federal Government at the Naval Air Systems Command, Patuxent River, MD where she gained valuable contracting experience in services and major weapon systems.

Ms. McNeal joined the US Army Contracting Command Aberdeen Proving Ground, RTP Division in August 2005 as a Grants/Contracting Officer. Ms. McNeal provides acquisition support and guidance for complex contracts and assistance awards involving highly specialized and innovative research. Ms. McNeal has Extensive knowledge of the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR), Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement (DFARS), Army Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement (AFARS), the Department of Defense Grant and Agreement Regulations (DODGARS) and 2 CFR 200. Professional Activities and Accreditations include Level III Certification in Contracting, Member of the Army Acquisition Corps, Graduate of the Army Management Staff College CES Advanced Course, Graduate of the Harvard Senior Executive Fellows Program and a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.



## Lisa Meinke

**Project Manager**

**ORAU Government Services-Research Programs**

With over 30 years of managing government programs related to occupational & environmental health, public health, and multiple STEM-related fields, Lisa now serves as the Project Manager for the Army Research Laboratory's Research Associateship Program, which is managed by Oak Ridge Associated Universities (ORAU). For the past four years, Lisa has also coordinated OSD's Summer Faculty

Fellowship Program. Lisa lives in Pennsylvania with her husband and enjoys travelling to see her children and grandson.



## Jess Resig

**Director of Solutions Innovation**

**Applied Research Institute, Inc.**

Jess Resig, PhD, serves as the Director of Solutions Innovation at ARI (Applied Research Institute, Inc.). Prior to joining ARI, she served as a senior instructional designer for Penn State University where she spent over a decade collaborating with business and engineering faculty and program directors to design, develop, and offer a variety of online, hybrid, and executive-style programs. She brings a wealth

of experience in process and project management, learning analytics, research, and program evaluation.

Resig also serves as a lecturer at the University of Virginia where she teaches courses in instructional design and multimedia design. She holds a bachelor's degree in English and English Education from the University of Pittsburgh, a master's degree in instructional technology from Duquesne University, and a PhD in instructional design and technology from Old Dominion University.



## Ellen Robinson

**Program Manager, NDSEG**

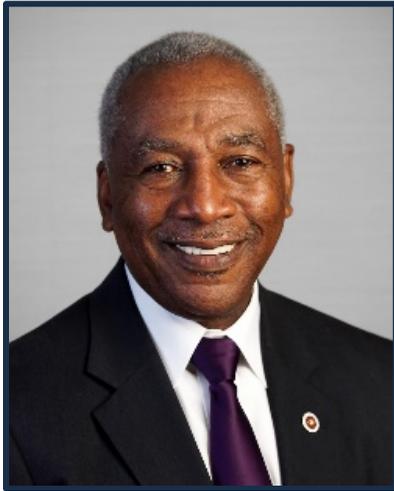
**Air Force Office of Scientific Research**

Ellen M. Robinson is a Senior General Engineer in the Air Force Office of Scientific Research (AFOSR) Science and Engineering Division, Science and Engineering Collaboration Branch, Arlington, VA. Mrs. Robinson has served over eight years as a Program Manager for AFOSR STEM workforce development initiatives within the Air Force Research Laboratory (AFRL) enterprise. She manages the AFRL Science and Technology Fellowship Program (STFP), the AFOSR Young Investigator Program (YIP), and the AFOSR Presidential Early Career Award in Science and Engineering (PECASE).

Mrs. Robinson also serves as the AFRL Program Manager and the Department of Defense (DoD) Program Manager for the National Defense Science and Engineering Graduate Fellowship (NDSEG) Program. She currently serves as the Contracting Officer Representative for two STEM fellowship program contracts. These programs are crucial in developing and bolstering the DoD STEM future pipeline for scientists and engineers (S&Es) in DoD relevant research areas and shaping future DoD research needs. These programs also support post-docs and senior researchers whose research aligns and supports the DoD and Department of the Air Force (DAF), including the United States Space Force, missions. In these roles, she develops STEM workflow development policies in innovative, high-risk high-reward research, plans and executes budgets totaling over \$200M annually for early-career scientists and engineers and STEM graduate scholars.

Since joining the Air Force as a civilian in November 1989, Mrs. Robinson has served in several roles in the Aeronautical Systems Center and the Air Force Research Laboratory including avionics design and laser optical communications design engineer, business and financial management, strategic development planning and programming.

Prior to her current assignment, Mrs. Robinson was Deputy Program Manager in the STEM development office where she developed an AF wide K-12 AF STEM Outreach education program establishing policies and programs to interest K-12 students in STEM academic studies and careers of AF mission needs. She was instrumental in establishing the AF blueprint in the DoD STEM portfolio. She also co-authored with her DoD sister services STEM workforce development initiatives for near, mid, and far term. She has used her depth of experience in strategic planning, budgeting, and execution in forecasting specific STEM needs vital for the future workforce as it relates to DoD and DAF missions.



## John Rosenthal

**President**

**Tougaloo College Research and Development Foundation**

John Rosenthal serves as President, Tougaloo College Research and Development Foundation (TCRDF), an entity whose sole purpose is to support the research and development mission of Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) and Other Minority-Serving Institutions (MSIs). The Research Foundation fulfills that mission by helping HBCUs and MSIs secure and execute Federal and private sector grants and contracts, and by facilitating partnerships with the Federal agencies and the private sector.

Most of John's career has been dedicated to working with or for HBCUs or a consortium of HBCUs. He has served as Director of the Urban Environment Institute at Howard University, Vice President for Research, Economic Development, and Public Service, and Executive Director of 1890 Program at South Carolina State University, and Vice President for Research, Advancement and Economic Development at Grambling State University.

John has also served as Director, Environmental Justice for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and as the Washington Representative for the National Conference of Black Mayors. In 2007, John formed EJ Conference, Inc., a non-profit organization that produced the Annual State of Environmental Justice in America Conference for six consecutive years, until John assumed full-time duties at South Carolina State University. John graduated from Tougaloo College with a bachelor's degree in mathematics and from George Washington University with a Juris Doctorate Degree. John is an ordained deacon at Alfred Street Baptist Church in Alexandria, Virginia.



## Lauren Rottler

**Business Operations and Human Resources Strategist**

**Enterprise Services Division, Cost Analysis and Program Evaluation,  
Office of the Secretary of Defense**

Lauren Rottler is a Business Operations and Human Resources Strategist in the Enterprise Services Division, Cost Analysis and Program Evaluation, Office of the Secretary of Defense, Department of Defense. She is focused on leveraging available data to inform human resources practices and policies, with a focus on diversity,

equity, and inclusion across the organization. Ms. Rottler previously served as the HR Data Analytics and Reporting Program Manager for the National Institute of Standards and Technology, Department of Commerce where she provided reports and analysis of human resources data to enable data driven decision making. She has also worked at the Department of Justice and the Federal Emergency Management Agency. She holds a Masters of Business Analytics from Iowa State University, Masters of Science of Conflict Analysis and Resolution from George Mason University, and a Bachelor of Arts in History and Anthropology from the University of Virginia.



## Lanelle Shands

**Branch Chief, Army Contracting Command**

**Aberdeen Proving Ground Research Triangle Park Division**

Lanelle T. Shands serves as a Branch Chief for the Army Contracting Command- Aberdeen Proving Ground, Research Triangle Park Division, located in Research Triangle Park North Carolina where her branch supports the Army Research Office (ARO) and the United States Military Academy at West Point (USMA). Mrs. Shands began her Federal Career in 2002 at the Naval Air Systems Command (NAVAIR) in Patuxent River, MD. While at NAVAIR, she was a Contract Specialist supporting the H-1 Helicopter Program and Aircraft Support Contracts Department.

In 2005, she moved to RTP, NC where she continued her Federal Career with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). While at the EPA, she supported the Office of Air and Radiation utilizing a variety of contract instruments. In 2010, Mrs. Shands joined the U.S. Army Contracting Command, Aberdeen Proving Ground, Research Triangle Park Division as a Contract Specialist and worked her way through as a Contracting Officer, Team Leader, and now Branch Chief. She is a 2002 graduate of North Carolina Central University who earned a Bachelor of Business Administration Degree with a Concentration in Management, and she obtained her master's degree in business administration in 2004 from Florida Institute of Technology.

Mrs. Shands has extensive knowledge of the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR), Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement (DFARS), Army Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement (AFARS), the Department of Defense Grant and Agreement Regulations (DODGARS) and 2 CFR 200. Mrs. Shands is a member of the Army Acquisition Corps, Graduate of the Army Management Staff College CES Advanced Course and is Level III Certified in Contracting through the Department of Defense and Federal Acquisition Institute.



## Anthony C. Smith, Sr.

**Director**

**Department of the Navy's (DON) Historically Black Colleges and Universities and Minority Institutions Programs at the Office of Naval Research**

Mr. Smith is the Director for the Department of the Navy's (DON) Historically Black Colleges and Universities/Minority Institutions (HBCU/MI) Program that is focused on communicating, coordinating, and cultivating relationships of HBCU/MIs within the Department of the Navy's Naval Research Enterprise. In this capacity, Mr. Smith serves as the Senior Advisor to the Chief of Naval Research and the Department of the Navy on matters relating to strengthening the research capabilities of HBCU/MIs and increasing the number of minorities (undergraduate, graduate and faculty) pursuing internships, fellowships, and research related projects with the Department of the Navy. Mr. Smith possesses over 20 years of numerous continually progressive assignments including serving as the Science and Technology (S&T) Director and Director of Future Technology responsible for the developing and transitioning numerous Small Business Innovative Research (SBIR) and S&T projects totaling more than \$100M for PEO LCS, PMS 501.

He also served as the Science & Technology Manager/Technical Director supporting the S&T Directorate within PEO SHIPS. He holds a DAWIA Level 3 Certification in S&T. Mr. Smith is also a Navy Captain (O-6) in the United States Naval Reserves serving as the Chief of Staff for NRRU 7th Fleet.



## Lisa Smith

**Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Product Support**

**Principal Advisor to the Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD)**

Ms. Lisa P. Smith, a member of the Senior Executive Service, is the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Product Support and serves as the Principal Advisor to the Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD) leadership on policies, procedures, and actions related to the readiness and sustainability of major weapon systems. She is responsible for the development and implementation of acquisition and sustainment strategies and processes providing the Warfighter with cost-effective weapon system readiness across the life cycle. In addition, Ms. Smith coordinates and synchronizes ASD(S) international and partner

engagements. She also manages the life cycle logistics and logistics workforce for the Department of Defense (DoD). She assumed her current position in April 2021. She entered Civil Service in February 1986 through the Professional and Administrative Career outstanding scholar program at Robins Air Force Base, GA, and has over 37 years of logistics, acquisition, and supply chain experience. She has held leadership positions in the OSD and the Department of Air Force to include Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense (Materiel Readiness), Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Logistics and Materiel Readiness), Office of Secretary of Defense (Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics), Washington, D.C. and the Deputy Director of Logistics, Civil Engineering and Force Protection, Headquarters Air Force Materiel Command, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio.

Prior to her current assignment, she was the Deputy Director of Logistics, Deputy Chief of Staff of Logistics, Engineering and Force Protection, Headquarters Air Force, Washington, D.C. She was responsible for supporting the Director of Logistics by providing executive leadership and direction for organizing, training, and equipping more than 180,000 technicians and managers maintaining the aerospace weapons system inventory. She assisted with providing strategic direction for material and equipment management, logistics readiness, munition and maintenance policy, fuels, vehicle management and operations, distribution, personal property and passenger traffic management. She has received several awards to include Secretary of Defense Medal for Exceptional Civilian Service; Under Secretary of Defense (Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics) Award for Excellence; Assistant Secretary of Defense (Logistics and Materiel Readiness) Award for Excellence; Meritorious Civilian Service Award (2); and Exemplary Civilian Service Award (3). She is Level III certified in Lifecycle Logistics and Program Management.



## Treniece Terry

### **Technical Engagements Program Manager**

Dr. Treniece Terry is the Technical Engagements Program Manager for the Research and Development, Enabling Capabilities Division of the Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA). She manages far-sighted, high-payoff research focused on exploring the fundamental mechanisms that govern material response in extreme environments that include chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear threats to further capabilities development of interest to the Department of Defense.

As a Senior Scientist at the Armed Forces Radiobiology Research Institute, Dr. Terry acquired extensive experience leading research efforts that specialized in designing multi-responsive nanoplatfoms that modulated biological processes to develop radiological countermeasures using novel polymeric and metal-based hybrid materials. Her training in cancer, biotechnology, and nanotechnology integrated the

fields of pharmaceutical science, material science, and chemical biology.

Before joining DTRA, she worked at Naval Surface Warfare Center, Indian Head, developing sustainable energetic manufacturing processes for Resonant Acoustic Mixing. Dr. Terry received her Ph.D. from the University of Iowa, M.S. from the University of Maryland, College Park, and B.S. from Prairie View A&M University in Chemical Engineering.



## Lisa Troyer

### Principal Deputy

#### Office for the Cross-Competency Program Integration

Dr. Troyer is currently Principal Deputy for Cross-Competency Integration in the Army Research Laboratory's new organization-by-competency structure. From Jun 2021-Sep 2022 she was Chief, Physical Sciences Division at DEVCOM-ARL/Army Research Office (ARO), and also Visiting Research Scientist at Duke University (Department of Sociology). As Physical Sciences Chief, she oversaw a diverse portfolio, including Biology, Chemistry, Genetics, Nanosciences, Neuroscience, Physics, and Social & Behavioral Sciences. She completed her undergraduate studies at the University of Washington, receiving a B.A. in Sociology in 1989. She trained at Stanford University, earning her Ph.D. in Sociology in 1995. She came to ARO in 2013 as a Scientific and Engineering Technical Advisor to support development of extramural basic research programming in social and behavioral sciences for the Army and in 2015 was appointed Program Manager for Social and Behavioral Science, Life Sciences Branch, Physical Sciences Division. From 2020-2021, she was Acting Division Chief for the DEVCOM/Army Research Laboratory - Army Research Office's Engineering Sciences Division. She also served as the Acting Director for the Minerva Research Initiative (OUSD(R&E)) from 2018 – 2020.

In this capacity she spearheaded the National Academies of Sciences Review of the Minerva Research Initiative. Prior to joining ARO, Dr. Troyer served for 17 years as tenured Professor, Associate Provost, and Chief of Staff to the President at three Carnegie-classified Research I universities and consulted for several Fortune 500 organizations in the domains of workplace innovation, organizational science, and collective decision making.

Troyer's award-winning basic research focuses on cross-disciplinary approaches to the study of the interface between technology and social dynamics such as inequality, identity, influence, and change in groups and organizations. Her research is noted for its reliance on theory-driven quantitative modeling, testing, and analysis, as well as for her collaborations with international scholars (including scientists from India, Poland, South Korea, Iceland, South Africa, Japan). She also led the establishment of university centers in the areas of nanoscience and nanotechnology, informatics, clinical and translational

sciences, and virtual technology for the universities she served. In addition, she co-developed one of the first pandemic and emergency response plans for universities while at the University of Iowa. Her original research has been published in over 50 peer-reviewed journals and books spanning public health, social psychology, engineering, sociology, management science, and mathematics. Her most recent publications include, *Group Dynamics in Disrupted Environments, Advances in Group Processes*, Edgewood, NJ: Sage, 2021; and *The Criticality of Social & Behavioral Science in the Development & Execution of Autonomous Systems, Perspectives on Autonomous Systems*, New York: Elsevier, 2020.



## Janeen Uzzell

**Chief Executive Officer**

**National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE)**

Janeen Uzzell is the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) at the National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE), the largest Black STEM community impacting society and industry. She also serves as an advisor for the White House HBCU Initiative where she was appointed by President Biden in 2022. In her former role as the Chief Operating Officer (COO) for the Wikimedia Foundation, which operates Wikipedia, Janeen drove process improvement and helped launch the Wikimedia Knowledge Equity Fund to address racial inequities in free knowledge.

For nearly two decades, she held various roles at General Electric (GE), working in healthcare technologies in some of the world's most challenging environments. As the head of Women in Technology, she accelerated the number of women in technical roles. Her previous roles at GE included Global Director of External Affairs and Technology Programs, Director of Healthcare Programs at GE Africa (where Janeen lived for several years as an Ex-Pat in Accra, Ghana), Director of Global Healthcare Programs, Director of Healthcare Disparity Programs, and Director of Service Operations.

She is a recipient of numerous awards, including the United Nations Global Leadership Award and one of ADWEEK's Top Black Women Trailblazers in Tech. Janeen received her Bachelor of Science in mechanical engineering from North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University, and an MBA in International Business from Fairleigh Dickinson University.

A thought leader, a voice of influence, and a source for good, Janeen fuses her passion for social justice and her leadership to shine light on inequality in tech spaces and forge opportunities for others. In her spare time, she enjoys playing tennis and spending time with her family and friends in Washington, D.C.



## Lovica Ware

**Senior Plans and Programs Engineer and Deputy Chief**

**Development Planning Division, Office of the Deputy Assistant**

**Secretary of the Air Force for Science, Technology, and Engineering**

Dr. Lovica Ware is a Senior Plans and Programs Engineer and Deputy Chief in the Development Planning Division in the office of the Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Science, Technology, and Engineering at the Pentagon, Arlington, VA. Dr. Ware is the Air Force point of contact and representative for the Office of Under Secretary of Defense for Research and Engineering's (OUSD R&E) Concepts and Capabilities (C&C) and Rapid Defense Experimentation Reserve (RDER) programs. In this role she solicits and evaluates Air Force prototyping and experimentation proposals and assesses validity and execution prior to advocating for their acceptance and funding when briefed to senior Air Force and Joint staff's leadership. This role also requires she develop and manage budgetary research documents to inform and advocate Air Force budget position to both House and Senate Appropriations Members and their Congressional Professional Staff Members.

Dr. Ware entered civil service in June 2004 and has held a broad range of engineering positions since with her first at the National Air and Space Intelligence Center (NASIC) Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio as a Computer Engineer. There she was responsible for Aircraft Analysis Squadron's Information Modeling and Database Management which included active participation in and facilitation of all squadron information modeling and database efforts.

After leaving NASIC, Dr. Ware accepted a position as the Lead Engineer for New Business Foreign Military Sales (FMS) for the Medium Altitude Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS) Division at the Air Force Lifecycle Management Center (AFLCMC) Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio. This Division was the Program Office for the MQ-1 Predator and the MQ-9 Reaper remotely piloted aircrafts. In this position, she prepared technical presentations, conducted airworthiness analysis, and evaluated US standards with desired international standards to align the Air Force MQ-9 with potential FMS configurations. Broadening her technical expertise, Dr. Ware was a Senior Plans and Programs Engineer in the Capabilities Integration Division, Plans and Programs Directorate at the Air Force Research Laboratory (AFRL) Headquarters at Wright Patterson AFB, Ohio. Dr. Ware had the roles of both Engagement Lead for Air Force Space Command and Air Combat Command MAJCOMs for Cyberspace Superiority and Command and Control Service Core Functions and as the Branch Chief of Future Air Capabilities Branch where she guided a team of engineers who influenced six Service Core Functions and over half of the Air Force Science and Technology budget.



## Reginald Williams

**Director/Program Manger**

**Office of Naval Research**

Reggie Williams is the program manager for the Office of Naval Research (ONR) Young Investigator Program (YIP), Research Opportunities for Program Officers (ROPO), In-house Laboratory Independent Research (ILIR), Independent Applied Research (IAR), Naval Research Enterprise Internship Program (NREIP) for undergraduate and graduate students, and the Science and Engineering Apprenticeship Program (SEAP) for high school students. He also manages the OUSD Basic Research Office Vannevar Bush Faculty Fellowship (VBFF) funding opportunity announcement and grant awards.

Previously he managed programs in the Propulsion and Power Engineering competency at the Naval Air Warfare Center Aircraft Division (NAWCAD) Patuxent River, MD. His assignments included managing the Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) and Small Business Technology Transfer Research (STTR) programs, high-speed engine technology demonstrators, and turbine engine analysis. In private industry, Dr. Williams managed technology programs and conducted experimental and computational research in advanced propulsion integration for industrial, commercial, and military applications. Dr. Williams received his PhD, MS, and BS in Aerospace Engineering from the University of Maryland at College Park.



## Katie Wisecarver

**Senior Research Psychologist**

**Air Force Office of Scientific Research**

Katie A. H. Wisecarver is a Senior Research Psychologist in the Air Force Office of Scientific Research (AFOSR) Science and Engineering Collaboration Branch, Arlington, VA. She has over 12 years of civilian service as a Program Manager in the Air Force Research Laboratory enterprise. Ms. Wisecarver works directly with a multiagency, multiservice team to execute basic research and technology transition efforts on behalf of the Department of Defense (DoD) and the Department of the Air Force (DAF). Ms. Wisecarver serves as the AFOSR Program Manager and the Department of Defense (DoD) Program Manager for the Defense University Research Instrumentation Program (DURIP), building capacity across the DAF (including U.S. Space Force) in areas of importance to DoD

strategic basic science and technology goals. She also manages the Multidisciplinary University Research Initiative (MURI) for AFOSR, bringing multidisciplinary research teams together to tackle the critical basic research needs facing the DAF and DoD through very high-risk, high-reward research projects. In these roles, she helps shape the future force and meet the technology needs of tomorrow's Air Force and Space Force by growing the DoD research base, providing big-win research capacity, and stimulating the growth of emerging technologies via accelerated transition of findings to practical applications. She is also a certified Master Resiliency Trainer for the AF Comprehensive Airmen Fitness program and a nationally certified victim advocate with the AF Sexual Assault Prevention and Response (SAPR) Program.

Prior to her current position, Ms. Wisecarver served in several roles at AFOSR including: Program Manager for the Defense Enterprise Science Initiative (DESI) pilot program, bringing together industry and university teams for rapid innovation; Program Manager for the Air Force Institute of Technology (AFIT) Small Grants Program, supporting research for AFIT faculty and students; and Program Manager for the Awards to Stimulate and Support Undergraduate Research Experiences (ASSURE) program, a collaborative effort between DoD and the National Science Foundation (NSF). Ms. Wisecarver also served as an Assistant Program Manager for life sciences portfolios and a contracting officer's representative. She is also experienced in STEM outreach, business management, and strategic planning. Prior to entering public service, Ms. Wisecarver served as a Resource Analyst in the toxicology division at a clinical research organization in Virginia. Preceding that position, she worked in both in-patient and out-patient psychology in South Carolina.



## Monique Wright

**DoD HBCU/MI Program Coordinator**

**U.S. Army Combat Capabilities Development Command Army Research Laboratory**

Monique Wright is a Social Scientist for DEVCOM-ARL Educational Outreach and is the Program Coordinator for the DoD HBCU/MI Program. A proud HBCU alumna, she attended the University of the District of Columbia and is currently pursuing her Ph.D. at Howard University. Monique is dedicated to diversifying the STEM workforce and is passionate about bringing STEM experiences and opportunities to underserved and underrepresented communities.



