



National Science Foundation
Directorate for Education & Human Resources

December 15, 2020

Dear Conference Participants:

On behalf of the National Science Foundation's Directorate for Education and Human Resources, it is my great pleasure to welcome you to the 2021 Virtual HBCU-UP/CREST PI-PD Meeting.

This conference provides opportunities to share the exciting work you are conducting, to network and advance collaborative efforts, and to discuss best practices and strategies on preparing the next generation of STEM professionals.

As our nation continues to grapple with the COVID-19 pandemic and address the impact it is having not only on our health, but on research and education at large, your work could not be more vital. The Coronavirus has exposed and exacerbated inequities in education and reminded us of the continuous, hard work we must do to ensure that there is diversity in STEM research and education.

One of our core values is promoting broadening participation in STEM to ensure that all people have access to the wonders and benefits of science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

We applaud you for your important work and efforts in this endeavor and in striving to transform the STEM enterprise so that it reflects the rich diversity represented in our nation.

Best wishes for a productive and rewarding conference!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Karen Marrongelle'.

Karen Marrongelle
Assistant Director