

Johnson C. Smith University Hosts Planning Meeting for HBCU Psychology Faculty Research Consortium
(July 2004 Communique)



Currently, there is no venue or organization that focuses on encouraging networking and increasing research productivity among psychology faculty and students at Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs). In response to this need, an HBCU research consortium initiative has been launched by the psychology faculty at Johnson C. Smith University (**Harriette Richard, PhD**, Chair) in consultation with **Curtis Branch, PhD**, 1971 JCSU alumnus who is currently employed by the New York State Psychiatric Institute at Columbia University.

Consortium Participants

An initial planning meeting for the HBCU Psychology Research Consortium Initiative was held at Johnson C. Smith University (JCSU) in Charlotte, NC on April 16 - 18, 2004. In attendance were psychology faculty from five colleges and universities: Bowie State University (**Cheryl Blackman, PhD**), Edward Waters College (**Patricia Whittingham, PhD**), Livingstone College (**Carlene R. Smith, PhD**), Johnson C. Smith University (**Shirley Anderson, PhD; Harriette Richard, PhD; Ruth Greene, PhD**), and Tennessee State University (**Amy Sibulkin, PhD**). OEMA Director **Bertha G. Holliday, PhD** also was in attendance. Approximately 15 other HBCU psychology departments/programs that were unable to attend, expressed interest in participating in an HBCU Psychology Research Consortium.

Prior to the meeting, institutional data sheets were sent to interested HBCUs to ascertain their departmental and research characteristics and needs. At the Planning meeting, follow-up interviews were conducted with individual attendees. (Follow-up phone interviews will be conducted with interested institutions who were unable to attend the planning meeting.) The meeting also focused on defining short-term and long-term goals for the Consortium and discussed various organizational and operational issues, including: Initial focus areas for Consortium efforts, facilitation of inter-institutional collaboration, financial support for Consortium efforts. The group also discussed the types of research efforts appropriate for the Consortium effort. These included the possibility of a two-tiered program of research involving both investigator-initiated research projects and consortium-sponsored efforts that could involved multi-site research projects and development of a central research bank for the management of data files.

As a means of encouraging collegial support, the meeting also included scholarly/research presentations (followed by discussion) by meeting participants Amy E. Sibulkin, PhD and Ruth Greene, PhD of Johnson C. Smith University.

It is anticipated a second and larger Consortium Planning Meeting will be held within six months. APA, through its Commission on Ethnic Minority Recruitment, Retention and Training (CEMRRAT) Grant program is providing partial support for the Consortium's Planning efforts.

For more information about the HBCU Research Consortium, contact JCSU Professor and Consortium Director **Shirley Anderson, PhD** at either 704-330-1414 or sanderson@jcsu.edu
