HISTORICALLY BLACK COLLEGES & UNIVERSITIES

2021 NATIONAL HBCU WEEK CONFERENCE

EXPLORING EQUITY

SEPTEMBER 7-10, 2021

How can the Institute of Education Sciences Support HBCU Applicants to its Research Grants Programs?

Institute of Education Sciences
U.S. Department of Education

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IES

Listening Session Ground Rules

1. Please send any questions to the Moderator.
2. Please “raise your hand” if you would like to make a comment.
3. Please turn off your microphone unless asked to speak.
4. Please use your camera when speaking.
5. Please use the “chat” area to convey ideas that you would like IES to follow-up on later in the meeting.
6. Please email follow-up questions and idea to IES at NCER.Commissioner@ed.gov or NCSER.Comissioner@ed.gov.

Focus of this Listening Session

1. Introduction to Funding Opportunities for HBCUs at the Institute of Education Sciences
2. Listening Session Questions
   - What factors do you consider when deciding to apply (or not apply) for IES research grant funding?
   - What are barriers to MSI's applying for and carrying out IES-supported research?
   - How could IES expand/increase outreach to MSIs interested in education research?
   - How could IES support increasing the education research capacity of MSIs?
   - What kind of funding opportunities would you like to see from IES in the future?

IES Participants

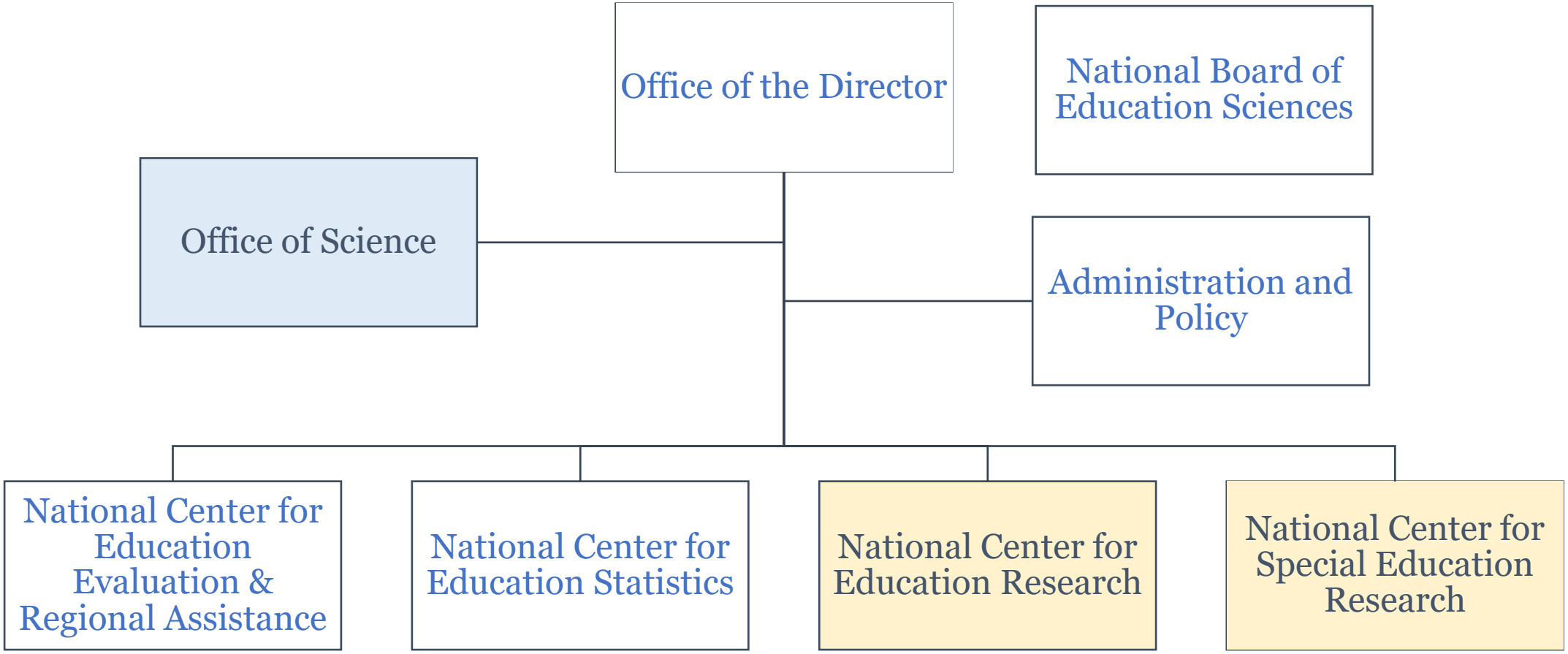
- Allen Ruby, Associate Commissioner of Policy and Systems, National Center for Education Research
- Katina Stapleton, Co-Chair IES Diversity and Inclusion Council and Education Leadership and Education Research Training Program Officer, National Center for Education Research
- Christina Chhin, STEM Program Officer, National Center for Education Research
- Katherine Taylor, Special Education Research and Training Program Officer, National Center for Special Education Research
- E. Danielle Roberts, Research Analyst, Standards and Review Office

Introduction to the Institute of Education Sciences

Does IES have Funding Opportunities for HBCUs?

- **General Opportunities:**
  - HBCU applicants are typically eligible to apply to all IES research and research training competitions.
  - HBCUs applicants are encouraged to take advantage of IES technical assistance, including webinars and office hours.
- **Targeted Opportunities for MSIs (including HBCUs):**
  - Pathways to the Education Sciences Research Training Program (not competed in FY 22)
  - Early Career Mentoring Program for Faculty at Minority Serving Institutions (new competition for FY 22)

Organizational Structure of IES



Objectives of IES Research Grant Programs

- Develop or identify education interventions (practices, programs, policies, and approaches) that enhance education outcomes and can be widely deployed
- Identify what does not work and thereby encourage innovation and further research
- Understand the processes that underlie the effectiveness of education interventions and the variation in their effectiveness
- Develop measures of academic achievement and progress
- Support research and national leadership on core issues

Objectives of IES Research Training Programs

- Prepare individuals to conduct rigorous and relevant education research that advances knowledge within the field and addresses issues important to education policymakers and practitioners.
- Train and mentor students and researchers from diverse backgrounds in order to encourage their entry into and success within education research careers.
- Improve the quality of education research and encourage new ideas, approaches, and perspectives.

Projects Should Yield Meaningful Findings and Products

- Contribute knowledge and theory of teaching, learning, and organizing education systems
- Identify the benefits and effects that programs, policies, and practices have on relevant outcomes for learners
- Identify costs and cost effectiveness of such programs, policies, and practices
- Disseminate findings and products in a way useful to and accessible by educators, parents, policymakers, researchers, and the public

Why would you apply to IES?

- You are interested in working in education settings
- You are interested in improving student education outcomes
- You are committed to sharing your research findings with education practitioners

What makes us different from other ED funding programs?

- Grant funds are to cover research, not program support
- A good application is a good application - we don’t have priorities or competitive preferences that result in extra points for applicants
- Reviewers have flexibility to assign points based upon overall scientific merit

How does IES compare to other agencies?

-	Institute of Education Sciences (IES)	National Science Foundation (NSF)	National Institutes of Health (NIH)
Information about grants found in:	Requests for Applications (RFAs)	RFPs, Dear Colleague Letters	Parent Announcements
Who manages the peer review process?	Standards & Review Office	Program Officers	Center for Scientific Review
Advice provided by program officer	Yes	Some	Some
How competitive?	Very	Very	Very

IES Office of Science, Standards & Review

The **Office of Science** oversees the scientific peer review activities for IES grant applications and reports.

Under the Education Sciences Reform Act (ESRA), IES is required to have a peer review system , involving highly qualified individuals, for reviewing applications for grants and cooperative agreements. In addition, research, statistics, and evaluation reports produced by, or supported through, IES must be subject to rigorous peer review before being published or otherwise made available to the public.

- Peer review activities and staff are situated outside of the IES centers that fund research grants and contracts, provide technical assistance to applicants, and work with grantees and contractors.
- This organization is intended to put distance between the program officers and administrators within IES who work with grantees and those who are responsible for the peer review of applications for funding under those grant programs, thus ensuring as objective an application review process as possible.

Peer Review of Grants

For more information about the grant peer review process, go to https://ies.ed.gov/director/sro/index.asp.

Individuals interested in serving on grant peer review panels can provide information about themselves to us

- By visiting the Reviewer Recruitment site: https://iesreview.ed.gov/ReviewerRecruitment
- By contacting Elizabeth.Roberts@ed.gov

Motivation for this Listening Session

IES has only funded 1 HBCU directly and 2 more as part of partnerships.

We would like your feedback on how to increase the number of funded researchers from HBCUs across our various competitions.

- Our ultimate goal is to improve academic achievement and access to educational opportunities for all students.
- That requires that IES-funded research is carried out in a manner that is free of racial, cultural, gender, or regional bias.
- Our ability to conduct and support high-quality research, collect and disseminate timely data, and evaluate the impact of educational policy and practice depends on our ability to attract, train, partner with, and support talented researchers, statisticians, and evaluators from all backgrounds.
- Our recent technical working group *Increasing Diversity and Representation of IES-funded Education Researchers* suggested that we go straight to the source, so we are asking for your insights on how IES can increase the number of researchers from HBCUs.

Open Discussion

- What factors do you consider when deciding to apply (or not apply) for IES research grant funding?
- What are barriers to MSI's applying for and carrying out IES-supported research?
- How could IES expand/increase outreach to MSIs interested in education research?
- How could IES support increasing the education research capacity of MSIs?
- What kind of funding opportunities would you like to see from IES in the future?

Keep in Touch with IES

- To provide further feedback or ask questions, email NCER.Commissioner@ed.gov or NCSER.Commissioner@ed.gov
- For more information on funding opportunities, see IES Funding Opportunities (https://ies.ed.gov/funding)
- For more on diversity and inclusion at IES, see the IES Diversity Statement (https://ies.ed.gov/aboutus/diversity.asp)