



**MINORITY SERVING-  
CYBERINFRASTRUCTURE  
CONSORTIUM**



# **MS-CC: Bridging Access Gaps, Enabling Collaborations with CI Panel Discussion**

Internet2 Community Exchange

March 5, 2024

Leslie Jones, Director of Program Development, MS-CC

## THE VISION

MS-CC envisions a transformational partnership to promote advanced cyberinfrastructure (CI) capabilities on HBCU, HSI, TCU, and MSI campuses. We are advancing connections across campuses around data, research computing, teaching, curriculum development, professional development, and capacity-building.

We will learn and grow as a consortium, lifting up all participating institutions by advancing cyberinfrastructure for research and education across diverse fields, disciplines, and communities in ways that reflect the unique voices and interests of our communities.

**We will engage as full contributors to the global R&E community.**



Photo Credit: North Carolina Central University



Photo Credit: Salish Kootenai College



Photo Credit: Jackson State University

## MS-CC Guiding Principles

Inclusion | Innovation | Stakeholder Value

### MS-CC Purpose

- Increase access to cyberinfrastructure (CI) capabilities across academic disciplines
- Enhance communication between researchers, IT professionals, campus leadership, and between institutional members
- Support IT for research-enabled professional and career development
- Collective advocacy and partnerships

### MS-CC Stakeholders

- Researchers, educators, and students
- IT/CI professionals
- Campus leadership
- Industry partners
- Foundations and funding agencies



Photo Credit: North Carolina Central University



Photo Credit: Salish Kootenai College



Photo Credit: Jackson State University

## MS-CC Guided by Consortium Leadership Board (CLB)

- Dr. Richard Aló, Florida A&M University
- Al Anderson, Salish Kootenai College
- Joey Brenn, Claflin University
- Peter Angelos, Fond du Lac Tribal and Community College
- Dr. Ming-Hsing Chiu, Dillard University
- Bobby Clark, Clemson University
- Dr. Deborah Dent, Jackson State University
- Tom Jackson, North Carolina A&T State University
- Dr. Urban Wiggins, University of Maryland Eastern Shore
- Leah Kraus (Retired), North Carolina Central University
- Tim Warren, Tennessee State University
- Donna Hayden, Alcorn State University
- Ana Hunsinger, MS-CC PI, Internet2



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## NSF Award

Minority Serving Cyberinfrastructure Consortium (MS-CC)

Award # OAC-2234326

Start date: 10/1/2022 Projected end date: 9/30/2027

**21st Century Research-Cyberinfrastructure for MSIs through the Minority Serving - Cyberinfrastructure Consortium (MS-CC): A phased approach to engage the Missing Millions**

## Objective

- Significantly *increase and accelerate cyberinfrastructure-centric research capacity* at MS-CC campuses through a set of new approaches from which we can then learn and potentially frame a repeatable, successful model for cyberinfrastructure implementations on the campuses of minority-serving institutions.

## Approach

- Initial allocation of *at least five (5) Proof of Concept Grant (PoCG) Awards* to select MS-CC institutions that allows each to perform campus specific CI assessments that drive an overall CI strategic plan and a roadmap to pioneer new capabilities that advance CI-centric research, and empower scientific advancements.
- Establishing *teams of expert CI Professionals* that will provide support to the PoCGs through consultation, implementation of expanded CI capabilities, and leading efforts to ensure these institutions are participating and collaborating with the broader CI ecosystem.
- *MS-CC as a more robust effort* so that it can be able to support future PoCGs and to support a more directed approach to ensure these institutions are participating and collaborating with the broader CI ecosystem.

### Principal Investigator:

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### Co-Principal Investigators:

Al Anderson,  
Salish Kootenai College  
James Brenn,  
Clafin University  
Dr. Deborah Dent,  
Jackson State University



## MS-CC Proof-of-Concept Grant (PoCG) Program

- novel approach to CI planning and capacity development to advance research and education programs at TCUs and HBCUs
- **combination of funding and dedicated expert facilitation**
  - up to \$250k in first year for local CI workforce development and planning activities
  - partnership with MS-CC's "Tiger Teams" of experts on campus CI development and stakeholder alignment
  - complementary to existing CI funding mechanisms
- **up to 5 years of support**
  - solicitation, proposals, and review piloted Dec 2023 – Feb 2023
  - five recipients announced April 2023, with rolling start since
  - future phases anticipated, depending on outcomes & funding

*This was a competitive process*



## MS-CC Proof-of-Concept Grant (PoCG) Program

### All Proof-of-Concept Grant (PoCG) Activities

- Stakeholder Alignment toward formalized CI governance
- PoCG-funded CI Facilitator or CI Coordinator implementation

### Claflin University

- R&E Facilitation informing HPC investment/funding
- eduroam implementation

### Jackson State University

- R&E Facilitation informing HPC investment/funding
- Network Enhancement, with eduroam implementation

### North Carolina A&T State University

- R&E Facilitation informing cybersecurity compliance support
- CI self-assessment and strategic planning toward R1 goal

### Salish Kootenai College

- R&E Facilitation informing conference participation, CI governance
- Virtual Lab and Network development, with eduroam implementation

### Nashville HBCUs

- Chartered *Nashville HBCU CI Collaborative*
- Coordinated network development and campus CI Plans enabling future shared HPC



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### Multi-Campus CI Collaboration



## Acknowledgement



The MS-CC sincerely appreciates the support from **Dale Smith** from the **Network Startup Resource Center (NSRC)**





***Panelists:***

**Al Anderson, CIO, Salish Kootenai College**

**Dr. Deborah Dent, CIO, Jackson State University**

**Tom Jackson, Vice Chancellor of IT Services and CIO, North Carolina A&T State University**

***Moderators:***

**Jennifer Kim, CI Engineer, MS-CC**

**Russell Hofmann, CI Facilitator, MS-CC**

***Presenter:***

**Leslie Jones, Director of Program Development, MS-CC**

***Join MS-CC  
Today!***

