Establishing and Fostering Collaborative Relationships to Enhance Diversity Initiatives
(...and a few things about Vanderbilt)

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Enhancing Diversity in Graduate Education (EDGE) Program

- US citizens and permanent residents only
- Ph.D. Programs only (No master’s or professional degrees)
- Underrepresented minority students
- First-generation and low-income students
- Women in STEM fields

Disclaimers and Declarations

- This talk incorporates aspects of MANY (ongoing) conversations with colleagues and collaborators.
- This talk shares no secrets.
- “You become what you practice.”
- I’m frank, but hopefully not (too) offensive.
At The End of This Talk...

You should know

• What graduate and summer research programs expect from a serious partner (from ourselves and you)

• How to enhance the quality of your collaborations

The Stakeholders

• McNair Scholars

• McNair Directors (Staff)

• Graduate Education Representatives (Recruiters)

The Ultimate Interrelationship
In the Beginning...

Finding The Right Institutions, Programs and Contact Persons Is Like Online Dating

Both you and we are seeking the best FIT and MATCH.

Selecting Your Partners/Collaborators
Complete Your Profile

Critical Factors to Consider

• Institutional McNair Program Grant
• McNair Scholars
• McNair Staff

McNair Grant Evaluation
(What do I bring to the table?)

• What are the objectives of my McNair Grant?
  — Funding (How much is available this year?)
  — Allocations (How should these funds be spent?)
    *Student costs
    *Program costs
    *Staff costs
  — Outcomes (How do I demonstrate my accomplishments?)
## Student Evaluation
(What do I bring to the table?)

- Who are my McNair students?
  - Population (What are their majors?)
  - Coursework (What courses did they take?)
  - Success in courses (Did they do well?)
  - Rigor (How comprehensive was the curriculum?)
  - Research experience (quality and quantity)
  - Aspirations (What are their graduate education plans?)
  - Communication (How well do they articulate plans?)

## “Self” Evaluation
(What do I bring to the table?)

- What is the reach of my office?
  - Students (How efficiently and effectively is the communication?)
  - Personal: You and staff (How well connected are you?)
  - Professional (Horizontal and Vertical)
    * Intra- and Inter-institutional
    * Interactions (How well connected are they?)

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Complete
The Profile of
Your Match
Investigate the Connection
(How do they operate?)

- Where is the institution and what is its overall reputation?
- What are the graduate and summer research programs at the institutions?
- What is his/her title, responsibilities, and purview at the institution?
- How does he/she meet his her goals/objectives?
- What is the commitment (structural and financial) of the administration to research opportunities?
- What are support services are available to graduate students?

Fostering Your Relationships

Critical Components of Relationships

- Communication
- Communication
- Communication
- Execution
Keys to Successful Collaborations
(Making it work)

• Bilateral communication: If there’s someone or something (on your campus or elsewhere) about which we should know, tell us!
• Bilateral communication: If you want something, ask for it!
• Bilateral communication: If we both want it and doesn’t seem to be possible, let’s put our heads together and figure out how to make it happen!

Vanderbilt Partner Universities

• Central Michigan University (Lynn Curry)
• Cornell University (Tremayne Waller)
• Florida International University (George Simms)
• John Jay College of Criminal Justice (Ernest Lee)
• Morehouse College (Brock Mayers)*
• Murray State University (John Mateja)*
• Rider University (Angelica Benitez)*
• Sam Houston State University (Lydia Fox)
• University of Central Florida (Michael Aldarondo-Jeffries)*
• University of Mississippi (Demetria Hereford)
• University of North Texas (Diana Adams-Elrod)*
• University of Texas, Austin (Darren Kelly)*
• Xavier University of Louisiana (Tracie Thomas)

*multi-year, multi-level productivity

The fruits of the labor...
McNair Scholars

Products of Collaborations

After completing post-doctoral research studies at Georgia Tech and Emory University, Dr. Dumas has accepted a faculty appointment at Morehouse College

A little about graduate education at Vanderbilt...
Fourteen “Top-25” Universities*

- Harvard University
- Yale University
- Stanford University
- Massachusetts Institute of Technology
- University of Pennsylvania
- Columbia University
- Duke University
- Washington University
- Johns Hopkins University
- Cornell University
- Vanderbilt University
- University of California, Los Angeles
- University of Southern California
- Northwestern University

*compiled by Dean Dennis Hall

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Physical and Natural Sciences

- Chemistry
- Mathematics
- Physics

Engineering

- Biomedical engineering
- Chemical and biomolecular engineering
- Civil engineering
- Computer science
- Electrical engineering
- Environmental engineering
- Interdisciplinary materials science
- Mechanical engineering

Biological and Biomedical Sciences

- Biochemistry
- Biological sciences
- Biomedical informatics
- Biostatistics
- Cancer biology
- Cell and developmental biology
- Cellular and molecular pathology
- Chemical and physical biology
- Epidemiology
- Hearing and speech sciences
- Human genetics
- Microbiology and immunology
- Molecular physiology and biophysics
- Neuroscience
- Nursing Science
- Pharmacology
Humanities and Social Sciences

- Anthropology
- Community research and action
- Economics
- English
- French
- German
- History
- Law and economics
- Leadership and policy studies
- Learning teaching and diversity
- Philosophy
- Political science
- Psychology
- Psychology and human development
- Religion
- Sociology
- Spanish
- Spanish-Portuguese
- Special Education

The Vanderbilt University Graduate School Application

- Opens in early September
- FREE (no cost) for online application
- Students can apply to up to two graduate programs (Check department/program philosophy on this practice)
- Unofficial transcript for application. Official transcript required for enrollment.
- Deadlines are December 1 through Jan 15 (check with program)

Funding for Vanderbilt University Graduate School Ph.D. Students

- Guaranteed for five years
- Full funding (Tuition, fees, stipend, health insurance)
- Provided annually for nine to twelve months
- Top recruits could win a Topping-up award worth ADDITIONAL $50,000
- EDGE recruits for Provost’s Graduate Fellowship
- Graduate School funds 20 PGF’s per year
Final Thoughts

My sincerest thanks to my friend and colleague, Michael Aldarondo-Jeffries!

QUESTIONS???