Challenges encountered with HBCUs/MSIs

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Teledyne Brown Engineering

Mission Systems
- Systems Engineering
- Modeling and Simulation
- Test and Evaluation

Space Systems and Commercial Space Imaging
- Multi-User System for Earth Sensing
- Mission Planning and Control Center Operations
- Payload/Cargo Integration
- Space Flight Hardware

Energy & Environment
- Chemical Processing Equipment
- Electrical Penetration Assemblies
- Facilities M&O
- Radiological/Classified Laboratories

Marine & Aviation
- Naval Vessel Design and Manufacture
- LCS Gun Mount
- Army Missile Round Trainer
- Mine Seeking Hardware
It’s fairly easy to identify project needs and objectives for student/ university involvement. On the other hand it is sometimes difficult to identify a single point of contact and/or decision maker.

On most campuses, there are many different colleges, departments, independent labs, institutes, and offices. With whom do you initiate discussions? Professors, Deans, Contracts, Administration?

In some cases, the contract agreement was with a third party or affiliate of the institution instead of directly with the school.
Some universities don’t invoice for months which causes additional accounting work.

- There’s nothing worse than waiting months to receive an invoice and then it’s incorrect.

Other invoicing issues are:

- Delayed responses to communication about invoices.
- Hours worked in our system not matching the university’s invoices.
- Billing for unallowable travel expenses.
Other problems encountered:

- Recruiting students in a timely manner: Late Spring, Summer, and late Fall are the most difficult times to identify students for projects.

- Arranging housing or affordable living accommodations: Most leases are six months to a year. Students tend to be on semester schedules.

- Transportation: In most cases this is covered by the student. If travel is required for the project the student is reimbursed by the school.

- Security clearances: Some projects require background checks and U.S. citizenship.

- Semester schedules: Most students don’t want to delay graduation for a co-op.