HBCU/MSI Technology Infusion Road Tour
NASA Mentor-Protégé Agreement Success Story & Lessons Learned March 28th, 2018
Prime Contract at Marshall Space Flight Center (MSFC)

- **Mission Operations and Integration (MO&I) Contract**
  - **Scope**: Provide Operations in support of the International Space Station (ISS) at NASA Marshall Space Flight Center (MSFC) in Huntsville, AL and Johnson Space Center (JSC) in Houston, TX.
  - Includes mission preparation (plan), crew and flight controller training (train), and real-time (fly) requirements for spaceflight operations support.
Mentor-Protege Agreement (MPA)

- Two Concurrent MPAs with HBCU/MSI Universities
  - Alabama State University (ASU)
  - University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV)
- Period of Performances: August 2015 – July 2016
- Agreements: 100% engineering and technical based
- Focus: Exposing the University teams to the International Space Station (ISS) Operations on the MO&I contract and providing real life work experience for the students
Successes

- Allowed Universities to gain valuable past performance and opened opportunities for support on other NASA contracts

- Provided Universities underlying knowledge to assist with writing proposals needed to sponsor experiments on board the International Space Station (ISS)

- Universities produced multi-media products for the TBE Payload Developer (PD) training team and as well as Ground Support Personnel (GSP). Two students also supported a task allowing them to gain an understanding of the Space Launch Systems (SLS) vehicle launch support requirements
Successes

Based on outstanding level of support:

- 3 students hired full time upon their graduation
- Full Time PhD brought on to assist with curriculum development and task order assignment on the MO&I contract
- Subcontracts provided directly to ASU & UNLV to continue the work
- TBE continuing discussions with both universities to engage in ISS R&D projects and other partnerships
Why Were We Successful?

Communication:
- Communicate, Communicate, Communicate – this really is the key to success

Partnership:
- Both entities must partner together throughout the entire agreement

Participation:
- Faculty and Staff involvement is necessary and critical to the success of the MPA
Tips

- Logistics:
  - Does your work location have any restrictions? (ie: requirement for US Citizenship)
  - Is geographical distance a challenge?
    - Evaluate working remotely or establishing an alternative work schedule.
- Transportation / Housing
  - Start the agreement at a time that works well with the school calendar for reporting requirements and participation
  - Preselect students before agreement is in place
- Faculty and Staff involvement is necessary and critical to the success of the MPA
- Reduce Student Turnover
- Corporate-academia partnerships require flexibility, open communication and collaboration.