Increasing diversity in obesity research.
HBCU PRIDE Overview
HBCU PRIDE is designed to enhance the participation of individuals from underrepresented backgrounds in an evidence-based training and mentoring program. The program includes outreach to early-career faculty or transitioning postdoctoral fellows who hold appointments at or earned degrees from Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs).

HBCU PRIDE is a partnership between the University of Mississippi Medical Center and Jackson State University.

Those accepted will receive:
Training in the interdisciplinary research skills needed to develop successful careers in obesity health disparities research

Mentoring from faculty who have extensive experience in obesity research and obesity health disparities research

Networking opportunities to build professional relationships with a diverse group of researchers, scholars, NIH program officials, and community-based partners at scientific meetings, including the biannual African American Collaborative Obesity Research Network (AACORN) conference and an annual conference hosted by the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI) and the PRIDE program in Bethesda, Maryland.

Ongoing support through the HBCU PRIDE Alumni Network that provides additional research support, on-line training sessions, and continuous monitoring of career objectives

About PRIDE
The Programs to Increase Diversity Among Individuals Engaged in Health-Related Research, collectively referred to as PRIDE, were established to mentor early career faculty and transitioning postdoctoral fellows whose backgrounds are currently underrepresented in biomedical research. PRIDE gives these scientists opportunities to gain the knowledge and tools they need to carry out independent and meaningful research and advance their careers. This initiative is funded by NHLBI.

HBCU PRIDE
Principal Investigators

Bettina M. Beech, DrPH, MPH
Contact PI, HBCU PRIDE
Associate Vice Chancellor for Population Health
Professor of Pediatrics and Family Medicine
University of Mississippi Medical Center

Keith C. Norris, MD, PhD
Multiple PI, HBCU PRIDE
Professor of Medicine
David Geffen School of Medicine
University of California at Los Angeles

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Training
HBCU PRIDE is a two-year program consisting of four phases.

Phase I – Summer Institute I
A ten-day, face-to-face course in obesity research, data collection, data analysis, intervention development, and research methods held in Jackson, Mississippi

Phase II – Learning Communities
Small cross-disciplinary groups of mentees who will engage in learning together through frequent mentor-led online seminars

Phase III – Summer Institute II
A five-day training course in conjunction with the biannual AACORN conference held in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Phase IV – The HBCU PRIDE Alumni Network
Quarterly seminars on career advancement for participants who complete the PRIDE program as well as research opportunities, peer-mentoring and social support

Eligibility Criteria
Eight research-oriented individuals from underrepresented backgrounds who are early-career faculty or transitioning postdoctoral fellows with appointments at or degrees from HBCUs will be accepted in the HBCU PRIDE program annually, through a competitive review process.

Eligibility Requirements:
• A transitioning postdoctoral fellow OR an early-career faculty member with a discernable interest in obesity research
• An individual from a group identified by the National Science Foundation as underrepresented in the biomedical, clinical, behavioral, and social sciences (See NIH Notice NOT-OD-15-053)
• A citizen of the United States OR a permanent U.S. resident

Application Process
The application process for the HBCU PRIDE program will be managed through the Coordination Core of the NHLBI-sponsored PRIDE programs.

Applicants should complete and submit a PRIDE pre-application form (and a full application, if invited) through the PRIDE Coordination Core website.

To submit a pre-application form, visit umc.edu/hbcupride.

The target for application submission is March 1, 2016, with a rolling deadline until all positions are filled.