

# NCAMP

NORTH CAROLINA ALLIANCE  
FOR MINORITY PARTICIPATION

## *North Carolina Alliance For Minority Participation*

*“Building a stronger partnership for success”*



A major component of the North Carolina AMP (NCAMP) is the Undergraduate Research Program. This initiative specifically addresses the retention, education, and graduation of SMET students through focused research experiences providing early exposure to a graduate/postgraduate environment. Faculty in SMET disciplines across the Alliance assume key roles as mentors to facilitate guided research experiences for students. Opportunities for freshmen are initiated through team problem-solving and joint class projects, and attendance at local research seminars. During the academic year, upperclass students are paired with faculty in campus-based laboratory research projects. In addition, many juniors and seniors engage in summer internships and research programs sponsored by the Alliance, national laboratories, other universities, and industry. In the spring, an Annual NCAMP Undergraduate Research Conference functions as a forum to showcase faculty-mentored research, where students from all partner institutions participate in oral and poster sessions. Routinely, students also present their research at the National Conference on Undergraduate Research, the NSF-AMP National Research Conference, and at other local and state meetings. Feedback from students attests to the tremendous benefits of firsthand involvement in research. Other significant outcomes from intensive participation in research projects include marked improvement in “gatekeeper” course performance and increases in grade point average. NCAMP contends that research opportunities at the undergraduate level are not only desirable, but also requisite to adequately prepare students for a rigorous graduate experience in a research field. In turn, guided research experiences serve as a catalyst in motivating more underrepresented minority students to attain Ph.D. degrees in SMET disciplines.

*North Carolina Agricultural & Technical State University (lead campus) • Fayetteville State University  
North Carolina Central University • North Carolina State University • University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill University  
of North Carolina-Charlotte • University of North Carolina-Pembroke*