



*Testimonial
Perspectives*

**LOUIS STOKES FLORIDA-GEORGIA ALLIANCE FOR
MINORITY PARTICIPATION (LSFGAMP)**

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FLORIDA-GEORGIA LOUIS STOKES ALLIANCE FOR MINORITY PARTICIPATION IN SCIENCE ENGINEERING AND MATHEMATICS

Project Director

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Mrs. Iris G. Threath-Milton	Bethune-Cookman College
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Mrs. Rabecca Ramos	Florida International University
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FLORIDA-GEORGIA ALLIANCE FOR MINORITY PARTICIPATION IN SCIENCE, ENGINEERING AND MATHEMATICS

OVERVIEW

The Florida-Georgia Alliance for Minority Participation (FGAMP) Project is a coalition of twelve academic institutions in Florida and one in Georgia with a commitment of increasing the production of graduates in the science, mathematics, engineering and technology (SMET) areas and influencing the enrollment of these students in graduate programs. Currently, institutions participating in the project include *Albany State University, Bethune-Cookman College, Florida A&M University, Florida International University, Florida Memorial College, Florida State University, University of Florida, University of Central Florida, University of Miami, University of South Florida and affiliates Florida Community College at Jacksonville, Miami-Dade Community College and Tallahassee Community College.* In Phase II, the University of Miami and Florida Memorial College joined the Alliance. Clark Atlanta, a member of the Alliance in Phase I is now the lead institution for the Georgia College Fund AMP. Guided by a framework established by the National Science Foundation (NSF), the institutions involved in the FGAMP project have established nine specific goals to influence the progression (timely movement of students through the curriculum) and graduation rates of minorities in SMET areas.

The FGAMP Plan is holistic and spans from the prematriculation level to receipt of the B.S. degree. The primary activities of the FGAMP Project include strengthening the level of academic preparation and progression of students in the major and supporting students in research projects as early as the summer following the sophomore year. FGAMP has established linkages with research institutions to facilitate research opportunities and the smooth transition of students into graduate programs. Involvement of these partners may be in the form of scholarship, summer internship or seminar presentations.

The FGAMP Project is completing its sixth year of operation. Florida A&M University serves as the lead institution, and assumes primary responsibility for project management. Phase I of the FGAMP Project clearly demonstrated that a comprehensive approach to SMET education can and does influence students' persistence and progression in their respective disciplines. The graduation rate within the alliance more than doubled during Phase I. Phase II of the FGAMP operation will build on the successes of Phase I and will include greater involvement of scientists and engineers. FGAMP strives to infuse systemic changes which will impact the representation of minorities in SMET areas. Support from the NSF is matched by contributions from each member institution in the Alliance. A special appropriation from the Florida Legislature provides partial support for Florida FGAMP institutions in the form of scholarships for undergraduates and a structured program of graduate-undergraduate interaction at six of the participating institutions. Each institution has an advisory committee which oversees the campus-based operations. A representative from each institution serves on the FGAMP Steering Committee. In addition, broad-based activities are reviewed by the FGAMP Governing Board which is comprised of the presidents of the participating institutions.

**LOUIS STOKES FLORIDA-GEORGIA ALLIANCE FOR
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**STUDENT PERSPECTIVES
"TESTIMONIALS"**

"The LS-GAMP Scholarship program has provided me with the opportunity to excel in my studies with little worry about how my tuition would be paid. Being around people who care and have a general interest in my success, has provided me with an extra push that I needed to make me feel good and proud to be a part of such a dedicated program. In addition, the LSFGAMP has helped those around me by being part of the LSFGAMP tutoring program. The LSFGAMP program has opened numerous doors for me and other students in the areas of internships, cooperative education positions, and graduate school opportunities. LSFGAMP is one of those programs that is needed at every university and college to give students that extra push to be successful."

*Kevin Bartholomew, Senior
Computer Information Systems
Florida A&M University*

"The LSFGAMP internship experience that I received at the National High Magnetic Laboratory (NHML), Florida State University in Tallahassee Florida, has greatly enhanced my knowledge in research and increased the level of exposure in certain scientific areas. In fact, I have been encouraged to return next summer to continue working at the NHML."

*Awanna Ferguson, Junior
Biology
Bethune-Cookman College*

"LSFGAMP is a valuable resource that is sorely needed by America to bring its minorities up to speed as far as the number of minorities participating in the physical sciences and their success in the science field once they do participate. The LSFGAMP infrastructure is needed to teach team work and dedication, more of a holistic approach to learning. The regular progress reports and meetings required of the student participants teach and ensure consistency and dedication to the goal of high performance. This approach is revolutionary and certainly kept me on track as an undergraduate. Thanks to the LSFGAMP program, I am constantly mindful of high academic standards and graduated with honors in the area of mechanical engineering. LSFGAMP opens doors and needs to endure as a means to push students to achieve academically."

*Leslie Porter, Graduate
Mechanical Engineering
Florida A&M University*

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**STUDENT PERSPECTIVES
"TESTIMONIALS"**

"Since my freshman year the LSFGAMP program at the University of Florida has provided me the focus and direction needed to succeed in engineering. The Freshman Orientation Seminar, career and interpersonal counseling, special recognition programs, outreach programs, LSFGAMP EXPO, and tutoring have all aided in helping me to build-self esteem and utilize my leadership ability."

*Priscilla Ejimofor, Senior
Engineering
University of Florida*

"The LSFGAMP program has helped me in many ways. Throughout the years that I have been involved in LSFGAMP, the program has served as a means of support and a backbone for my success. It has allowed me to further my studies in the field of science and opened many doors for me in the area of research. The moderators have always been very helpful in providing guidance and direction in every way imaginable. From informing us of a plethora of internship positions to helping us out when our grades were a bit shaky. God willing, I will complete my studies in the upcoming Fall thanks to the support of the LSFGAMP program"

*Lourdes M. Andino, Senior
Biology
Florida International University*

My first experience with the LSFGAMP program was to attend my first LSFGAMP career EXPO. The EXPO was beneficial since it gave me the opportunity to meet the LSFGAMP Director, but also students who have similar goals and aspirations. In addition to meeting some of my peers, it gave me insight into what I will have to do to compete on the business of science in the future. Thus, the FGAMP EXPO is beneficial as a learning experience and a chance to grow as a minority student.

*Arthur Holmes, Freshman
Biomedical Engineering
University of Miami*

"Working with LSFGAMP undergraduate students has been a source of tremendous excitement and accomplishments as I pursue my ultimate goal of becoming a university professor."

*Mark Weatherspoon, Ph.D. Candidate
Electrical Engineering
University of South Florida*

**LOUIS STOKES FLORIDA-GEORGIA ALLIANCE FOR
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**STUDENT PERSPECTIVES
"TESTIMONIALS"**

"As a freshman student in engineering, The Louis Stokes Florida-Georgia Alliance for Minority Participation Scholars Award is a resource through which I can achieve my goal of graduating with a Bachelor's Degree in electrical engineering at the University of South Florida. The scholarship has also helped me to focus on my dedication and responsibility to my studies, and to always work for excellence."

*Veronica Lugo, Freshman
Electrical Engineering
University of South Florida*

"The Louis Stokes Florida-Georgia Alliance at Bethune-Cookman College has helped me to obtain a higher level of academic performance. Initially, I had to struggle with my academics. The LSFGAMP program is extremely useful and helps one to become a *"whole person"* as well as a scientist. Hopefully more students will take advantage of the opportunities which the LSFGAMP program provides."

*Roscoe Thorpe, III, Senior
Biology Education
Bethune-Cookman College*

"Throughout the year, LSFGAMP offers an excellent support system that ensures higher levels of graduates within each major. Support includes tutors, study groups, and midterm grade checks. LSFGAMP also helps provide many research experiences and internships for students. An extensive internship file is created for LSFGAMP students to submit applications to various internship sites."

*Daphne Best, Graduate
Biology
Florida A&M University*

"The LSFGAMP has helped me to develop my leadership skills. In addition, I have benefited from the opportunities to network with other students and professionals within the LSFGAMP program."

*Jacari Witchard, Senior
Computer Science
Albany State University*

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**STUDENT PERSPECTIVES
"TESTIMONIALS"**

"Since I started to work for Dr. Herrea in the Summer Research Program, an abundance of knowledge that I have received since my first year in college has started to make more sense than before. New concepts and ideas are starting to relate to my work at the laboratory, making it more easily to retain. I am grateful to the LSFGAMP program and staff for their support and for making it possible for me to do research."

*Paulo H. Diaz, Junior
Biology
Florida International University*

"Before accepting the opportunity to experience the 5th Annual National Science Foundation's Alliance for Minority Participation Research Conference, I was very unsure of my ability to present scientific research on a national level. However, winning first place for Teacher Preparation poster presentations inspired me to become more self-confident and to view all new experiences as learning experiences."

*Eugene Manselle, III, Senior
Science Education
University of Central Florida*

"The internship I participated in at Bethune-Cookman College under Dr. Skukdep, Professor of biology, was a great experience. Not only did I work on intriguing research, but was informed that it is one which could provide a vital breakthrough in the area of Cancer Research. This is exciting and I will definitely continue to pursue further study into this area. I appreciate the opportunity of being select by the BCC LSFGAMP program as one of its first LSFGAMP Interns."

*Candice, Gibson, Graduate
Biology
Bethune-Cookman College*

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**INSTITUTIONAL COORDINATOR PERSPECTIVES
"TESTIMONIALS"**

"I have worked with the LSFGAMP Alliance as one of the Tallahassee Community College LSFGAMP coordinators. Not only does the program offer the much needed financial assistance so that students can continue to pursue their academic goals, but it also provides academic support in terms of faculty/peer mentoring, tutorial services, advisement, career counseling, workshops on interviewing skills and writing resumes and so much more. LSFGAMP provide opportunities for social interaction among its members. Participants in the program give encouragement and academic advisement to each other and lasting friendships are formed. LSFGAMP provides experiences that help the "whole" student."

*LaJoycea Condry, Science Academic Coordinator
Tallahassee Community College (TCC)*

"In my opinion, LSFGAMP will permit minority students in science, engineering, and mathematics an opportunity to contribute in these areas where minorities are currently underrepresented. It'll also give the student the opportunity to interact with other minorities pursuing degrees in these fields thus, providing them with a system to begin networking."

*Jarvis Sams, Science Academic Coordinator
University of Miami (UM)*

"The LSFGAMP Program plays a significant role in the total development of the student that translates into academic success and career interest in science. It is a viable vehicle for increasing the number of minorities in SEM disciplines at both the undergraduate and graduate levels."

*Dr. Ralph Turner, Chairman, Chemistry Department
LSFGAMP Institutional Coordinator
Florida A&M University (FAMU)*

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**INSTITUTIONAL COORDINATOR PERSPECTIVES
"TESTIMONIALS"**

"The extensive range of activities of the LSFGAMP Program which include mentoring, study groups, seminars, research apprentices, internships, summer institutes, and student alliance meetings, have all played an important role in creating an exemplary program. Student exposure to these activities result in higher levels of achievement and a broader sense of the opportunities in the SEMT areas. SEMT majors on the Albany State University campus are now networking with each other and SEMT faculty, thanks to LSFGAMP. They have extended the learning process from inside the classroom, to tables in the library, LSFGAMP meetings, industries and research institutions. I am extremely proud to be a part of the LSFGAMP 'Pursuit of Excellence'.

*Connie Leggett, Science Academic Coordinator
Albany State University, (ASU)*

"My initial contact with The LSFGAMP program was as a computer science instructor for the LSFGAMP Summer Program. I learned a great deal about the goals and objectives of the program, and discovered that my own were very similar. Many of the activities that we conduct at Florida A&M University (FAMU) involve outreach to the community, working with youth and high school students, and even cultural development for students on campus. "*Each one teach one*" is a concept that we must abide by, for if we do not, no one else will. I am confident that we will continue this type of commitment to our campus and our community, and I am looking forward to new and improved objectives by LSFGAMP @ FAMU."

*Jason Black, Science Academic Coordinator
Florida Agriculture and Mechanical University (FAMU)*

"The LSFGAMP Program has truly made an invaluable impact upon the students who have been fortunate enough to become affiliated with the project as LSFGAMP Scholars. In fact, due to the efforts of the LSFGAMP program, over the past five years the Bethune-Cookman College Science & Mathematics Division has seen a dramatic increase in internships, scholarships, and graduate school placement. In addition, the spring 1998 semester commencement marked the largest number graduates from the LSFGAMP program since its inception. Clearly, the FGAMP program continues to meet the needs of minority students in the areas of science, engineering and mathematics and endeavors to assist program participation in the attainment of the professional goals."

*Iris G.Threatt-Milton, Science Academic Coordinator
Bethune-Cookman College, (BCC)*

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**INSTITUTIONAL COORDINATOR PERSPECTIVES
"TESTIMONIALS"**

"Under-represented minority students seeking graduate education in science, engineering, mathematics, mathematics education, and science education face new challenges. The change in federal priorities has contributed to a decline in industrial research and developmental activities. This has been coupled with a decrease in employment options for graduates in the above areas. In this increasingly uncertain environment LSFGAMP remains committed to enlarging the presence of under-represented minorities as graduate students and professionals in these disciplines. LSFGAMP affirms its belief that uniting bright students with sound education and practical research experiences results in proficient professionals ready to serve their communities and the nation."

*Roscoe McNealy, Director of Minority Engineering Program
LSFGAMP Institutional Liaison
University of Florida*

"As Science Academic Coordinator of LSFGAMP at Florida International University, for the past eight months, I would like to comment on my observations regarding this superb scholarship program. I came to realize that teamwork mixed with patience and politeness made it easy for me to learn and become part of this team. But what truly astonishes me is that the FIU LSFGAMP scholars that have done summer research or internships and have participated in most of the programs provided by LSFGAMP, actually claimed they felt the same way about the program. Not only does this program provide financial means to reach their academic goals, it has provided the students with the opportunity to present their research in an open forum at the annual LSFGAMP/FIU Scientific Conference and LSFGAMP annual career EXPO. These activities provide a means for students to interact with other minority AMP scholars, make new friends, exchange ideas, and mutual camaraderie. The students have stated that my role as the Science Academic Coordinator and the role of other faculty, staff and mentors, has been especially helpful when they need to seek advice or need tutoring. The LSFGAMP is much more than a scholarship program for minority students, it provides scholars with opportunities and options that may effect their lives after their four years of undergraduate studies. I am proud to be part of this program.

*Rebecca Ramos, Science Academic Coordinator
Florida International University (FIU)*

Florida-Georgia Alliance for Minority Participation

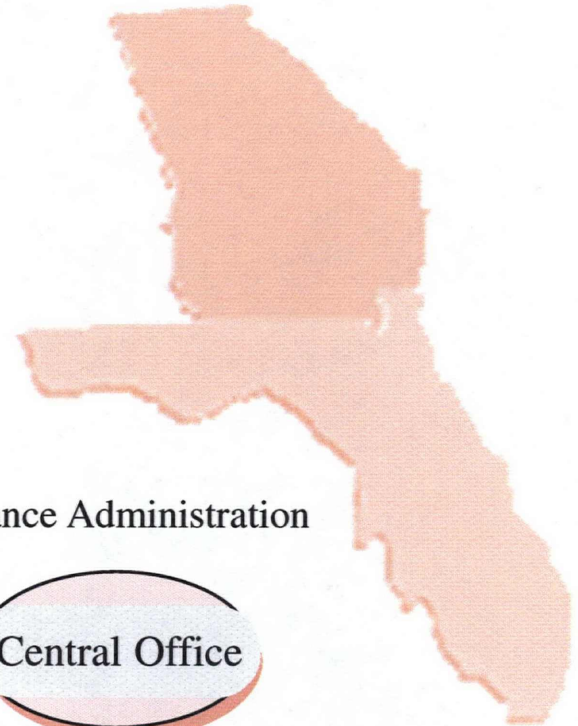
Alliance Structure

Community Colleges

Florida Community College @ Jacksonville

Miami-Dade Community College

Tallahassee Community College



Baccalaureate Granting Institutions

Serving:

Undergraduates

Albany State University

Bethune-Cookman College

Florida Memorial College

Alliance Administration

Serving:

Undergraduates and Graduates

Florida State University

University of Central Florida

University of Florida

University of Miami

University of South Florida

Florida A&M University

Florida International University

Central Office