MS-CC: Bridging Access Gaps, Enabling Collaborations with CI
Panel Discussion

Internet2 Community Exchange
March 5, 2024
Leslie Jones, Director of Program Development, MS-CC
THE VISION

MS-CC envisions a transformational partnership to promote advanced cyberinfrastructure (CI) capabilities on HBCU, HSI, TCU, and MSI campuses. We are advancing connections across campuses around data, research computing, teaching, curriculum development, professional development, and capacity-building.

We will learn and grow as a consortium, lifting up all participating institutions by advancing cyberinfrastructure for research and education across diverse fields, disciplines, and communities in ways that reflect the unique voices and interests of our communities.

We will engage as full contributors to the global R&E community.
MS-CC Purpose

- Increase access to cyberinfrastructure (CI) capabilities across academic disciplines
- Enhance communication between researchers, IT professionals, campus leadership, and between institutional members
- Support IT for research-enabled professional and career development
- Collective advocacy and partnerships

MS-CC Stakeholders

- Researchers, educators, and students
- IT/CI professionals
- Campus leadership
- Industry partners
- Foundations and funding agencies

MS-CC Guiding Principles

Inclusion | Innovation | Stakeholder Value
MS-CC Guided by Consortium Leadership Board (CLB)

- Dr. Richard Aló, Florida A&M University
- Al Anderson, Salish Kootenai College
- Joey Brenn, Claflin University
- Peter Angelos, Fond du Lac Tribal and Community College
- Dr. Ming-Hsing Chiu, Dillard University
- Bobby Clark, Clemson University
- Dr. Deborah Dent, Jackson State University
- Tom Jackson, North Carolina A&T State University
- Dr. Urban Wiggins, University of Maryland Eastern Shore
- Leah Kraus (Retired), North Carolina Central University
- Tim Warren, Tennessee State University
- Donna Hayden, Alcorn State University
- Ana Hunsinger, MS-CC PI, Internet2
Objective

• Significantly *increase and accelerate cyberinfrastructure-centric research capacity* at MS-CC campuses through a set of new approaches from which we can then learn and potentially frame a repeatable, successful model for cyberinfrastructure implementations on the campuses of minority-serving institutions.

Approach

• Initial allocation of *at least five (5) Proof of Concept Grant (PoCG) Awards* to select MS-CC institutions that allows each to perform campus specific CI assessments that drive an overall CI strategic plan and a roadmap to pioneer new capabilities that advance CI-centric research, and empower scientific advancements.

• Establishing *teams of expert CI Professionals* that will provide support to the PoCGs through consultation, implementation of expanded CI capabilities, and leading efforts to ensure these institutions are participating and collaborating with the broader CI ecosystem.

• *MS-CC as a more robust effort* so that it can be able to support future PoCGs and to support a more directed approach to ensure these institutions are participating and collaborating with the broader CI ecosystem.
MS-CC Proof-of-Concept Grant (PoCG) Program

- novel approach to CI planning and capacity development to advance research and education programs at TCUs and HBCUs
- combination of funding and dedicated expert facilitation
  - up to $250k in first year for local CI workforce development and planning activities
  - partnership with MS-CC’s “Tiger Teams” of experts on campus CI development and stakeholder alignment
  - complementary to existing CI funding mechanisms
- up to 5 years of support
  - solicitation, proposals, and review piloted Dec 2023 – Feb 2023
  - five recipients announced April 2023, with rolling start since
  - future phases anticipated, depending on outcomes & funding

This was a competitive process
MS-CC Proof-of-Concept Grant (PoCG) Program

All Proof-of-Concept Grant (PoCG) Activities
• Stakeholder Alignment toward formalized CI governance
• PoCG-funded CI Facilitator or CI Coordinator implementation

Claflin University
• R&E Facilitation informing HPC investment/funding
• eduroam implementation

Jackson State University
• R&E Facilitation informing HPC investment/funding
• Network Enhancement, with eduroam implementation

North Carolina A&T State University
• R&E Facilitation informing cybersecurity compliance support
• CI self-assessment and strategic planning toward R1 goal

Salish Kootenai College
• R&E Facilitation informing conference participation, CI governance
• Virtual Lab and Network development, with eduroam implementation

Nashville HBCUs
• Chartered Nashville HBCU CI Collaborative
• Coordinated network development and campus CI Plans enabling future shared HPC
Acknowledgement

The MS-CC sincerely appreciates the support from Dale Smith from the Network Startup Resource Center (NSRC)
Panelists:
Al Anderson, CIO, Salish Kootenai College
Dr. Deborah Dent, CIO, Jackson State University
Tom Jackson, Vice Chancellor of IT Services and CIO, North Carolina A&T State University

Moderators:
Jennifer Kim, CI Engineer, MS-CC
Russell Hofmann, CI Facilitator, MS-CC

Presenter:
Leslie Jones, Director of Program Development, MS-CC

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