



JUNE/JULY 2023 | VOLUME 2 | ISSUE 2

# REDI

RESEARCH EQUITY, DIVERSITY & INCLUSION

Note: hyperlinks are indicated by underlined sections of text or [🔗](#)

## Highlighted Funding Opportunity

DEADLINE: SEPTEMBER 14, 2023

National Science Foundation [🔗](#)

*Experiential Learning for Emerging and Novel Technologies ([ExLENT](#))*

The Directorate for Education and Human Resources (EHR) and the newly established Directorate for Technology, Innovation and Partnerships (TIP) seek to support experiential learning opportunities for individuals from diverse professional and educational backgrounds that will increase access to, and interest in, career pathways in emerging technology fields.

Common barriers to obtaining STEM educational or professional training include 1) limited opportunities to participate in internships, certificate programs and other experiential learning activities; 2) financial, familial, and/or community responsibilities; and 3)

general unavailability of support services needed to engage in educational programs (childcare, transportation, resume writing, etc.). The [ExLENT program](#) requires proposals to address these barriers and to provide mechanisms (i.e., financial, social, and educational/professional support) to ensure participants have viable on-ramps into emerging technology careers.

ExLENT awards are expected to be up to 3 years in duration with a total budget up to \$1M. Full solicitation details, FAQs, and webinar recordings providing guidance are available [here](#).



# Announcement

## New Internal Funding Opportunity for Community-Based Research Partnership Formation

Community-Based Research (CBR) at the University of Utah seeks to support research partnerships between academic researchers and community-based partners that inquire into and address real-world issues through an approach rooted in equity and inclusion.

Following extensive dialogue with key stakeholders and in collaboration with the Community Research Collaborative (CRC), the VPR has redesigned its CBR grant mechanism. Part of this redesign has produced the [CBR Planning and Partnership Formation Grant Program](#).

The goal of the Partnership Formation Grant Program is to build and foster new relationships between community-based and campus-based partners. This partnership should be either:

- A new relationship between the community organization and the University of Utah (i.e., community partner has never worked with the University of Utah before) or
- An existing relationship between the community organization and the University of Utah being leveraged in a new/innovative way (i.e., a community partner that has worked with the U of U before working on new idea or concept with research faculty/staff they have not previously worked with)

Full program details, including eligibility guidelines, required application materials, and review criteria, can be found [HERE](#). Applications for the pilot launch of the CBR Partnership Formation Grant Program are due by 11:59pm on Thursday, September 7th, 2023. Applications must be submitted via the internal competition mechanism on InfoReady, found [HERE](#).

Please contact [VPR Grants](#) with any questions.

**Applications due  
September 7th, 2023**



# Funding Opportunities

## AAC&U Convergence Program

Amount: \$15,000 + program benefits (mentorship, etc.)

Deadline: June 26, 2023

This fellowship program supports professional development and entrepreneurial mentorship for BIPOC women in STEM.

## NSF Workplace Equity for Persons with Disabilities in STEM and STEM Education

Amount: anticipated funding amount is \$5M for 10-20 awards

Deadline: September 19, 2023

This supports fundamental, applied, and translational research that advances knowledge and practice about diverse, equitable, inclusive, and accessible STEM and STEM education workplaces and postsecondary training environments for persons with disabilities.

## National Institute of General Medical Sciences (NIGMS) Bridges to the Baccalaureate Research Training Program (T34)

Amount: according to scope

Deadline: September 25, 2023

The goal of this program is to prepare a diverse cohort of research-oriented students to transfer from associate degree-granting institutions to baccalaureate degree-granting institutions and complete a baccalaureate degree in disciplines related to the biomedical sciences.

Want to shape future NSF funding opportunities to support a more diverse STEM workforce?

### **NSF Request for Information**

The NSF Technology, Innovation, and Partnerships (TIP) and STEM Education (EDU) have jointly issued a [Request for Information \(RFI\)](#) to seek input that will inform and shape future NSF investments and programs. This RFI is not a funding opportunity -- rather, it is an opportunity to influence future funding opportunities. Responses must be received by June 21, 2023. [Details are here.](#)



## Researcher Toolbox

## CLICK THESE LINKS FOR MORE DEI FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES:

[external fellowships for underrepresented graduate students \(maintained by the Graduate School Diversity Office\)](#)

[external DEI funding opportunities](#)

[internal DEI funding opportunities](#)

[Repository](#): The Institutional Antiracism and Accountability (IARA) Project (Harvard Kennedy School) created the "[Race, Research and Policy Portal](#)" to share antiracist research publications--with the goal of helping changemakers learn about and apply insights from this work.

[Webinar Recording](#): "What Should Impact Assessment Look Like for Social Science? A Decade of DORA: Lessons Learned for Social and Behavioral Science." In this [webinar](#), panelists discuss more meaningful--and more equitable--ways to track research impact than typical measures that center literature-based metrics.

# Researcher Profile

**Dr. Michelle Debbink** is a maternal-fetal medicine specialist whose research focuses on health disparities and inequities, particularly in terms of perinatal outcomes among Black, Indigenous, and other people of color. Her research exposes the ways in which health disparities emerge from inequitable social conditions—including social structures, neighborhood factors, and health policies. For example, Dr. Debbink’s research has demonstrated an association between racial residential segregation and low birth weight (independent of economic segregation; see [AJPH 2011](#)), and an association between racial segregation of hospital services and rates of low-risk primary cesarean delivery (see [AJOG 2023](#)). These and other findings inform her work as a clinical practitioner and agent of community change.

As a clinician, Dr. Debbink provides prenatal care for individuals with diabetes, congenital heart disease, and other high-risk or rare medical conditions. She is also engaged with community organizations, including [Black Physicians of Utah](#) (BPOU) – a nonprofit organization that aims to improve health equity for Black and underserved Utahns ([click here](#) for an interview on PBS with Dr. Debbink and Dr. Richard Ferguson, BPOU’s founder). Reflecting on the fact that Black women die from childbirth complications at nearly three times the rate of White women, Dr. Debbink said, “So many of these deaths are preventable... It’s the difference in the way that we treat each other, and the way opportunities for healthcare are structured in our society that is leading to this.”



Dr. Debbink is an assistant professor in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, where she also serves as department vice chair for equity, diversity, and inclusion. Prior to coming to the University of Utah in 2017 to complete a Fellowship in Maternal-Fetal Medicine, she completed a residency at the University of Michigan School of Public Health. She has an M.D. from the University of Michigan Medical School, Ph.D. from the University of Michigan School of Public Health, and bachelor’s degrees in sociology and health policy from Rice University.

**"So many of these deaths are preventable... It’s the difference in the way that we treat each other, and the way opportunities for healthcare are structured in our society that is leading to this."**

**– Dr. Michelle Debbink**



# Staff Profile

## and Q&A with Dr. Rodney Cohen, HBCU Partnerships Manager

**Rodney T. Cohen, Ed.D.** joined the division of Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion in 2022 as the inaugural Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) Partnerships Manager at the University of Utah. Dr. Cohen supports units in their efforts to establish and strengthen partnerships with HBCUs for student exchanges, research collaborations, and research infrastructure development. To achieve these goals, Dr. Cohen leverages his in-depth knowledge of—and extensive personal and professional network across—HBCUs in the U.S.



In an opinion published in the **Deseret News**, Dr. Cohen expressed the hope that the U's efforts to strengthen partnerships with HBCUs "will help us recruit, retain and promote diverse talent at the U. and in our local community – while also benefiting our HBCU partners by connecting them to our networks."

Here, Dr. Cohen answers some questions researchers frequently have about partnering with HBCUs.

**What partnerships does the U already have with HBCUs, and are there opportunities to expand these or develop new ones to include my research area?**

**Dr. Cohen:** Currently we (the U) has formal partnerships and strong relationships with Howard University, Alcorn State University, Morehouse, Prairie View, North Carolina A&T, Tuskegee, Morgan State and Florida A&M; currently these partnerships are in several STEM areas, including biomedical science, the Huntsman Cancer Institute and the

School of Medicine; with a relation also with the Eccles Business School. Opportunities exist to expand our partnerships with existing HBCU institutions or many others, depending on disciplines. Currently we are working with 6 of the 11 R2 HBCUs.

**Many funding agencies are interested in supporting research collaborations and research capacity building involving HBCUs. Given the importance of relationship building prior to a specific call for proposals, what do you recommend researchers do to start building relationships – and how can you help?**

**Dr. Cohen:** Yes, many opportunities exist to partner related to funding, particularly in research (i.e. NSF, DOD, DOE, US Air Force etc.). Consortium work is valued by many funding agencies, particularly when it comes to collaborative work with HBCUs. Fifteen (15) HBCUs currently have accredited programs in engineering with another 21 granting PhDs in at least one STEM field.



(continued)

I would suggest to any faculty or departments on campus to reach out to me to schedule time to discuss any short term or long term strategy related to research projects/initiatives. I can assist in identifying potential research partners at HBCUs. I would also encourage us to consider some faculty exchange or summer experience here at the U. As faculty come across proposals or opportunities to craft LOIs, I can assist around our HBCU partner institutions.

**What is one example of a research partnership you've been involved with helping to facilitate at the U?**

**Dr. Cohen:** One example would be with a faculty in Computer Science and Engineering, where an LOI was submitted to support an opportunity for students to attend the U in the summer session and conduct research and work with our faculty and lab resources. This partnership could potentially involve two (2) HBCUs.

The opportunities to collaborate are numerous. I welcome the opportunity to visit with any interested faculty and departments.

**At what point in the process of thinking about partnering with HBCUs should researchers contact you?**

**Dr. Cohen:** Researchers can feel free to contact me as early as possible. If a faculty member(s) or a department is interested in an HBCU partnership, I can collaborate in the discussion and strategy early on in the process; also, if there is a proposal one is interested in or an LOI, we can connect and discuss next steps, strategy and outreach.

**Dr. Cohen can be reached at [rodney.cohen@utah.edu](mailto:rodney.cohen@utah.edu).**



## Facts about HBCUs

- According to the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), "In 2021, there were 99 HBCUs located in 19 states, the District of Columbia, and the U.S. Virgin Islands."
- The racial composition of enrolled students at HBCUs varies across institutions and has changed over time. In 2021, non-Black students comprised 25% of HBCU enrollment. (Source: [NCSE](#)).
- In terms of Carnegie Classification\*, currently no HBCU is classified as an R1 institution, but there are [11 classified](#) as Doctoral Universities: High Research Activity (R2).
- Research capabilities across HBCUs are diverse and can be searched through [NASA's Minority Serving Institutions Exchange](#) (select HBCUs under "MSI Categories").

*\*Note: the American Council on Education, now the stewards of Carnegie classifications, are re-examining the system's methods and intent given that the classification's emphasis on breadth of doctoral programs downplays the quality of doctoral programs at many HBCUs (see [this article](#) in Inside Higher Ed).*

# Events

## JUNE 16

### NATURE IS QUEER

5:00-7:00 pm  
Under the Umbrella Bookstore  
511 W 200 S Suite 120  
[RSVP here](#)

Join the Natural History Museum of Utah and Under the Umbrella bookstore to learn about gender expression and gender roles in plants, animals, and Indigenous cultures of the past and present. More information is available [here](#).

## JUNE 19-20

### JUNETEENTH

June 19 - Juneteenth Observance (University Closure Day)  
June 20 - Events listed [here](#)

This year's Juneteenth theme, "[Wave of Freedom](#)," is an affirmation of every person's right to equity and dignity. On June 20, there will be a flag raising ceremony at 9 am at the Park Building and a summit at 11 am at the Spencer Fox Eccles Business Building. Additional Juneteenth details available [here](#).

## JUNE 22

### NATIVE EXCELLENCE GALA

6:00-8:30 pm  
Cleone Peterson Eccles Alumni House  
Tickets available [here](#)

The [Native Excellence Gala](#) brings together Tribal Nation heads of state, community partners and members, educators, and students to celebrate changemakers and leaders who are making a positive impact on behalf of the Indigenous community.

## JULY 18

### APS DEI WEBINAR

TBD (check website [here](#))  
Virtual - Register [here](#)

The American Physiological Society (APS) Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Webinar Series has several forthcoming webinars. The next one is "[Focusing on Recruitment and Hiring Faculty](#)."

THE OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT FOR RESEARCH IS COMMITTED TO ENHANCING EQUITY, DIVERSITY, AND INCLUSION IN RESEARCH AND THE U CAMPUS COMMUNITY

For more information: [research.utah.edu/edi](https://research.utah.edu/edi)



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**EDI Events Calendar**

ADDITIONAL GRANT PROPOSAL DEVELOPMENT SUPPORT IS AVAILABLE FOR MULTI-INVESTIGATOR TEAMS & INSTITUTIONAL PRIORITIES

Contact [Dr. Mercedes Ward](#)

Office of the Vice President for Research

### SUPPORT FOR:

- Identifying Potential Collaborators
- Grant-Required Self-Study, Community-Engagement & Stakeholder Dialogues
- Information Management
- Team Communication
- Developing Institutional Change & Social Impact Strategies
- Collaborating with Pre-Award and Grants & Contracts Officers
- Organizing and Leading Grant Development Events
- and More