



Office of Diversity and Inclusion Mission

The Whiting School of Engineering (WSE) Office of Diversity and Inclusion serves as a central hub for diversity, equity, and inclusion programs, initiatives, resources, and engagement. Our mission is to create an inclusive culture that attracts diverse talent, while providing opportunities for all members of our community to succeed. Integral to our work is examining and disrupting patterns or systems that reproduce inequity and implementing evidence-based practices that affect change. We provide thought leadership on critical diversity issues to increase awareness of barriers and challenges that impact experience and outcomes for underrepresented groups in STEM. People, climate, and community are core to our mission and operations. As such, our diversity, equity and inclusion efforts are centered around four objectives:

- O Inspire Belonging—foster an inclusive intellectual climate where all identities are affirmed and valued
- **O Empower Potential**—equip individuals of exceptional promise to become scholars, leaders, and innovators by providing opportunities for development and engagement
- O Continuous Improvement—regular assessment and evaluation to create accountability for diversity progress
- O Create Community—develop authentic spaces for connection to learn from others and leverage the benefits of diversity

Message from the **Assistant Dean of Diversity and Inclusion**

his past year was one of growth and impact for the WSE Office of Diversity and Inclusion. We welcomed Stacev Marks as our inaugural diversity program manager who has contributed greatly to the expansion of recruitment and retention initiatives. We increased outreach and partnerships with HBCUs and MSIs and, as a result, doubled our recruitment of VTSI and Percy Pierre Fellows.

We were awarded a 3.1 million NSF AGEP Alliance grant in collaboration with Carnegie Mellon and New York University to develop a model that promotes equitable advancement of early career engineering faculty from underrepresented groups. The grant has enabled a rigorous external assessment of our policies and practices, while expanding the mentorship networks of our early career faculty. The highlight of this year was undoubtedly the inaugural Black Excellence Conference we hosted in collaboration with PHutures. We are grateful for those who collaborate and engage with us, and we look forward to another year of impact.

Davine Sey

Our Team



Darlene F. Saporu, PhD Assistant Dean for Diversity and Inclusion

Darlene provides strategic vision and programmatic leadership on equity, diversity, and inclusion. She has spearheaded numerous initiatives at Hopkins aimed at improving the school climate, recruiting, and retaining students and faculty from underrepresented groups, building partnerships with HBCUs and other peer institutions, and addressing concerns and providing support and mentoring to students and faculty on a wide range of issues.

Stacey Marks, MS Diversity Program Manager

In 2022, Stacey was hired into this newly created position. She brings more than 20 years' experience in graduate student recruitment and provides staff diversity and inclusion recommendations to institutional leadership. Stacey will continue to expand recruitment programs and partnerships and implement community building and professional development to support the success and retention of historically underrepresented graduate students. Additionally, she will manage initiatives that promote diversity, equity, and drive a culture of inclusive excellence.





Alexis Peña, PhD Office of Diversity Graduate Fellow

As a graduate fellow in the Office of Diversity, Alexis supports strategic planning to improve diversity recruitment and retention. Alexis specializes in providing peer review assessments, data visualization, and graphics to identify university trends in faculty hiring and graduate student recruitment.

As a Passport to Future Technology leadership coordinator, Alexis leads the execution and implementation of a multi-year mentorship program aimed to enhance skills and career explora-

tion for underrepresented doctoral students through professional development, industry panels, networking, and personalized mentorship. In 2023, Alexis completed her PhD in biomedical engineering at Johns Hopkins. She is currently also serving as a research postdoctoral fellow in the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, Department of Biomedical Engineering, Translational Tissue Engineering Center (TTEC).

Major Revenue and Scholarships

\$3.1 Million

NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION GRANT

VIVIAN THOMAS SCHOLAR INITIATIVE

ENGINEERING SCHOLARS APPOINTED FALL ADMISSIONS 2022

ENGINEERING SCHOLARS APPOINTED FALL ADMISSIONS 2023

PERCY PIERRE DOCTORAL FELLOWSHIPS

FELLOWS APPOINTED FALL ADMISSIONS 2022



FELLOWS APPOINTED FALL ADMISSIONS 2023

Strategic Plan Data Gathering for DEI

The Strategic Planning Process

This report is the result of 12 months of data collection and analysis, consultation with stakeholders, focus groups, and task force deliberations/meetings.

SUMMER OF 2022	SEPTEMBER 2022	OCTOBER 2022
Meetings with WSE leadership to define the scope, charge, and composition of the DEI task force. This was followed by a series of discussions about diversity challenges and opportunities (ideation sessions) with diversity champions and department heads	Conducted internal SWOT analysis with support from the Office of Strategy Management. Engaged project management expert to help map/outline the process and timeline for completing the strategic plan	Began collecting trend data with the support of WSE Institutional Research on faculty and graduate student demographics, graduate recruitment, admissions, retention, and faculty hiring. At the same time, the University Climate Study working group was launched to develop a climate survey instrument for the whole university.

MAY/JUNE 2023

First full draft of **WSE strategic plan developed**, focusing on three goals:

- 1. Improve assessment and accountability for diversity and inclusion progress
- 2. Increase awareness and application of inclusive practices/behaviors in leadership, mentorship, and teaching
- 3. Expand effective practices to increase recruitment and retention of URG faculty and students

MARCH/APRIL 2023

After administering the WSE needs assessment, a focus group was held to collect additional data and substantiate findings. Data from the needs assessment and focus group data were analyzed for patterns and themes. A universitywide climate survey was deployed to assess perceptions of climate/inclusion and develop baseline measures of climate. (46% response rate for the climate survey in WSE). See the details below.

FOCUS GROUPS OUTCOMES

PhD students.

COMMUNITY AND PEERS ENGAGEMENT

- o Provide more welcoming and inclusive environments (labs and classrooms)
- o Provide community-building opportunities for domestic and international students

FACULTY AND DEPARTMENTS

- o Recommend guidelines for faculty to engage in periodic student well-being decisions
- o Improve faculty diversity to establish representation for PhD recruitment and retention

NOVEMBER 2022

Began seeking external **DEI consultant** with higher education expertise to support the goal identification, self study, data analysis, and writing of the strategic plan

DECEMBER 2022

DEI task force members asked to serve. Identified and hired external **DEI consultant Ebony Terrell Shockley** (University of Maryland)

JANUARY 2023

First meeting of the DEI task force focused on goal identification and data-informed decision making. Data provided by WSE Office of Institutional Research was reviewed and analyzed by the DEI task force to identify areas of progress or areas for improvement.

FEBRUARY 2023

Developed a needs assessment survey to gather input on DEI priorities from WSE stakeholders. The DEI task force and DEI consultant reviewed the survey. and it was revised before deployment to a sample of students, faculty, and staff. See the details below.

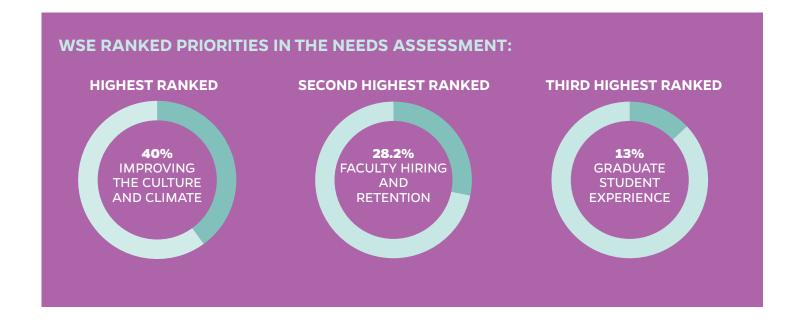
60 RESPONSES

EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP

FACULTY

GRADUATE STUDENTS

STAFF



Community and Engagement







Photos from 2022 Black Excellence Conference, 2022 ODI Welcome BBQ, PFTL, and various Explore Hopkins events.















Outreach and Recruitment

Conferences Attended

*16º/o

CONFERENCES

STUDENT **PROSPECTS** **APPLICANTS** YIELDED

PERCENT OF ELIGIBLE PROSPECTS THAT APPLIED (*SENIORS/POSTBAC)



Meet the Recruiter

Hosted by ODI partner, Assistant Director of Admission Ayana Teal

Discovery Series

There were four discovery events hosted by Assistant Director of Admissions Ayana Teal. The discovery events are designed to broaden engagement and provide the audience with an overview of various topics such as funding opportunities, life in Baltimore, success tips, and diversity and inclusion. Darlene and Stacey co sponsored the diversity and inclusion event on December 7 and presented the mission of the office including the support provided to doctoral students.

1,405

WEBINARS

OPEN HOUSES

DISCOVERY EVENTS

ENGAGED PROSPECTS

HBCU and MSI Engagement

Specialized outreach includes campus meetings with faculty and staff with small-group presentations and engagement with students.

Howard University

Morehouse College

Morgan State University

Spelman College

University of Maryland Baltimore County

Xavier University of Louisiana







- O Diversity Talk: Diversity in Higher Education: hosted by the XULA SGA Presidential Cabinet on Diversity and Inclusion
- O Promoting Summer Research **Programs** and **Explore Hopkins**
- O Presented to 16 students
- O 1 participant admitted to Summer Research Program 2023

Recruitment Services

- O Work in collaboration with Marketing and Communication to attend recruitment events at minority serving institutions and HBCUs
- O Invite faculty to showcase research during student campus visit days
- O Visit external university departments for targeted student recruitment in specific research areas
- O Provide mailing lists to identify external students in supported research programs
- Market internal department recruitment events

Explore Hopkins

HOSTED OCTOBER 13 TO OCTOBER 15



Established in 2016, Explore Hopkins (EHOP) is designed to provide students from diverse backgrounds with an intimate opportunity to learn more about engineering doctoral programs. 2022 marks the first year of the Explore Hopkins event specific to the engineering degrees. The three-day agenda kicked off with a networking dinner with Engineering faculty and leadership, followed by panel discus sions with current students.

2022 EHOP Cohort

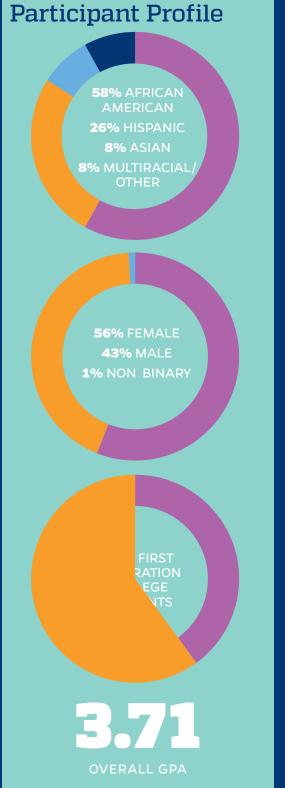
REPRESENTING 27 INSTITUTIONS ACROSS THE NATION

45% HBCU, HSI, AND MSI

26% PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS

10% IVY LEAGUE SCHOOLS

PRIVATE/SELECTIVE INSTITUTIONS





EHOP 2022 Cohort Admissions Outcomes

POSSIBLE SENIOR, POSTBAC, **MASTERS EHOP ATTENDEES**

SENIORS, POSTBAC, AND MASTERS WHO SUBMITTED APPLICATIONS

ADMITTED



Alumni Highlight

Adrian Johnston

EHOP was my first Hopkins experience; what could mean more than that? I met the people who would change my trajectory: Dr. Saporu, Dr. Gray, Dr. Ramesh, and others. Dr. Ramesh's unplanned lab tour literally made me say to myself, "Wow, serious work is being done at Hopkins." If it wasn't for Dr. Saporu and Dr. Gray, I wouldn't have known to talk to Dr. Cui about summer research in his drug delivery lab. And that's not the end of it. If it wasn't for Dr. Saporu and Dr. Cui who set up a meeting with Dr. Denis Wirtz, I can't tell you where I'd be right now. I'm in Denis' lab wrapping up my PhD; with Denis, I co-founded a cell therapy company called Meresin in April; and I worked with JHTV to secure funding for the company. My life is a dream, and it all started with EHOP and the amazing people I met there who are mentors and family to this day.

Students Rate The EHOP Experience

76% OF THE PARTICIPANTS COMPLETED THE ONLINE EVALUATION

VERY LIKELY OR LIKELY TO APPLY TO ENGINEERING

FELT THE BEST COMPONENT WAS NETWORKING WITH OTHER STUDENTS AND FACULTY AND TIME SPENT HAVING A FORMAL DINNER

JOINED A GROUPME TO HELP STAY IN TOUCH WITH ONE ANOTHER



2022 EHOP Recruitment Strategies

Staff established contact with more than 70 program directors and faculty from HBCU, MSI, and HSI insti tutions with special emphasis on programs such as the Louis Stokes Alliances for Minority Participation (LSAMP). This approach to EHOP recruitment success fully yielded an increased applicant pool. Applicants (44%) stated that they received an email from their school or a faculty mentor encouraging them to apply.

The assistant director of Marketing and Communica tions enhanced the database of prospective students to ensure that efforts would reach the engineering audience. The outreach consisted of contacts from previous recruitment fairs, the National Name Exchange, and the McNair Scholars directory. With that, staff designed an EHOP communication campaign complete with personalized messages and interval communica tions to continue to encourage eligible participants to apply. Outreach included website updates, social media posts on Twitter, LinkedIn, and Instagram.

To increase engagement, ODI hosted two Zoom meet ings with admitted EHOP participants. Between the two sessions, 30 participants attended to learn more about attending EHOP and were able to begin to network with one another.

Applicant Pool: 2019 KSAS & WSE vs. 2022 WSE*

In-person numbers

2019 TOTAL

INTERESTED IN ENGINEERING

2022 TOTAL

ADMITTED



In 2019, Explore Hopkins was integrated with Arts and Science and Engineering degree prospects. †39 attended—one canceled travel reservation due to school commitment



Targeted Partnerships

ODI works closely with HBCUs, minority serving institutions, and targeted partner institutions to provide opportunities for faculty, students, and staff to learn more about engineering degree programs. Prospective students range from freshmen (early engaged) to seniors/postbac.

SPECIALIZED OUTREACH

PROSPECTS

Early Engaged Prospects Highlight

UMBC and Penn Millennium **Scholars Visits**

The **Penn State Millennium Scholars** included freshman interest ed in learning more about engineering graduate programs. Vis iting Hopkins is an annual component in the Millennium Bridge Program that provides exposure to research, possible summer research positions, and exploring life as a graduate student.

UMBC McNair Scholars While attending a conference at visit Hopkins Engineering to learn more about graduate programs.



Second Look 2023 **Accepted Applicant Weekend**

Our accepted applicants' weekend is designed to give students a more extensive and personal look at what Hopkins Engineering has to offer. Activities included a reception, dinner, and mixer with Hopkins graduate program alumni and dedicated time with program faculty. Throughout this event, admitted students were invited to meet current and prospective doctoral students from programs across the university. This event also provided a tour of Baltimore City neighborhoods.





Second Look Stats

ONLINE

INVITED

IN PERSON

INVITED



OF INVITED APPLICANTS FROM 2022 TO 2023

ATTENDED

ACCEPTED THE OFFER **OF ADMISSION**

Systemic Change

he Office of Diversity and Inclusion received 3.1 million dollars in grant funds from the NSF's Alliances for Graduate Education and the Professoriate (AGEP) program.

AGEP contributes to the NSF's objective to foster the growth of a more capable and diverse research workforce. The NSF AGEP grant supports institutional change models to include training, mentorship, and recruiting and retaining faculty who are from underrepresented groups including African Americans, Hispanic Americans, American Indians, Alaska Natives, Native Hawaiians, and Native Pacific Islanders.

In 2022, Johns Hopkins University, Carnegie Mellon University, and New York University launched this collaborative grant titled Project ELEVATE (Equity-focused Launch to Empower and Value AGEP Faculty to Thrive in Engineering). The goal of Project ELEVATE is to develop an infrastructure that promotes equitable advancement at JHU, CMU, and NYU for tenure-stream engineering faculty from AGEP populations as they transition from assistant to associate professors.

Faculty Mentors

Johns Hopkins University

1. PAULETTE CLANCY **DEPARTMENT OF** CHEMICAL AND **BIOMOLECULAR ENGINEERING**

2. RAMA CHELLAPPA **DEPARTMENT OF BIOMEDICAL ENGINEERING**

DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRICAL AND COMPUTER **ENGINEERING**

3. LOUIS WHITCOMB DEPARTMENT OF **MECHANICAL ENGINEERING**



New York University **CLAUDIO SILVA JULIANA FREIRE MAURIZIO PORFIRI**

ANDRE TAYLOR

Carnegie Mellon University

RYAN SULLIVAN

DOUGLAS WEBER

KEITH COOK

JONATHAN MALEN

JARED COHON

ANNE ROBINSON

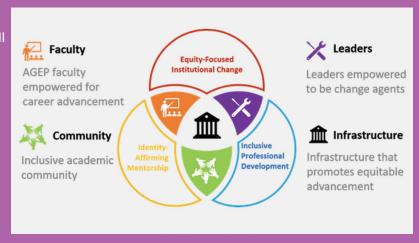


Project

Alliance for Graduate Education and the Professoriate

Goal of the Grant

Project ELEVATE's framework interventions will focus on three major areas: 1) equityfocused institutional change designed to make structural changes that support the advancement of AGEP faculty, 2) identity affirming mentorship that acknowledges and provides professional support to AGEP faculty holistically, recognizing all parts of their identity, and 3) inclusive professional development that equips all engineering faculty and institutional leaders with skills to implement inclusive practices. The Project



ELEVATE kickoff virtual launch was held Friday, Jan. 20 with 25 attendees. Participants included the Project ELEVATE faculty, institutional faculty mentors, and the AGEP Project team members. Guest speakers included academic engineering leaders who provided career guidance and insight on overcoming barriers.

Academic guest speakers included:

- C. Fred Higgs, III, Vice Provost for Academic Affairs, Director, Rice Center for Engineering Leadership, Rice University
- Theresa Maldonado, Vice President, Office of Research and Innovation, University of California

Other activities included team building with participating faculty from all institutions. Faculty participants were asked to share challenges and identify their needs to support their professional success.

An inaugural Project ELEVATE two-day retreat will be held in June of 2023 in Baltimore, Maryland.

Principle Investigator **Andrew Douglas Executive Vice Dean** and Emeritus Professor

Co-Principle Investigator **Darlene Saporu** Assistant Dean for Diversity and Inclusion

Project Coordinator Stacey Marks Diversity Program Manager

Senior Personnel **Adler Archer** Inaugural Director of the Office of Strategy Management





Carnegie Mellon University



Project Elevate Faculty

BLACK/AFRICAN AMERICAN WOMEN

BLACK/AFRICAN AMERICAN MEN

Project Elevate Affiliate Faculty

BLACK/AFRICAN AMERICAN MAN

LATINX MEN

LATINX WOMEN

Building Community

Meet the Percy Pierre Fellows and WSE Deans Scholars



































2022 FELLOW ELECTRICAL AND COMPUTER ENGINEERING WEST VIRGINIA UNIVERSITY MORGANTOWN, ALUMNI

ANDY NELSON

2022 SCHOLAR

COLLEGE PARK

2022 SCHOLAR CHEMICAL AND BIOMOLECULAR ENGINEERING VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY, **ALUMNI**

CHEMICAL AND BIOMOLECULAR ENGINEERING

UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND

GWENYTH PORTILLO-WIGHTMAN

2021 FELLOW COMPUTER SCIENCE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA, ALUMNI

SAMUEL LEFCOURT

2021 FELLOW COMPUTER SCIENCE SOUTHERN METHODIST UNIVERSITY

LAURA MCDANIEL 2022 FELLOW

ELECTRICAL AND COMPUTER ENGINEERING MORGAN STATE UNIVERSITY,

EPHRATA ZELLEKE 2021 FELLOW

ELECTRICAL AND COMPUTER ENGINEERING GOUCHER COLLEGE, ALUMNI

ALLI ABOLARIN 2021 SCHOLAR

CHEMICAL AND **BIOMOLECULAR ENGINEERING** UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON, ALUMNI

MANUEL AYALA

2021 FELLOW MECHANICAL ENGINEERING OLD DOMINION UNIVERSITY,

LORENA VELÁSQUEZ 10

2021 FELLOW MECHANICAL ENGINEERING NEW MEXICO INSTITUTE OF MINING AND TECHNOLOGY,

KYLE KAEO 2021 SCHOLAR

CHEMICAL AND **BIOMOLECULAR ENGINEERING** UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN, ALUMNI

Incoming Fellows Student Orientation

Dean's Scholars, and GEM Fellows. Orientation included introductions to the Office of Diversity and Inclusion and types of support available for students. We provided a seminar on self advocacy and designed team building activities.





Orientation Event Satisfaction

11 OF 13 RESPONDED

Respondents rated the overall quality of the orientation as excellent or very good! **9 of the 11** selected the seminar on self advocacy as the best part of the orientation. 7 of 11 also selected team building activities as the best part of the orientation.



Professional Development for Fellows and Scholars

TOPIC: CREATING EFFECTIVE PRESENTATIONS Students heard tips for improving professional presentation skills. They learned to structure a good networking pitch and practiced it to refine and produce impactful engagement.

Speaker: Julie Reiser, Senior Lecturer, Center for Leadership Education



Office of Diversity and Inclusion Welcome BBQ

Welcomed incoming graduate students who networked with current graduate students and played outdoor games





"I met so many people going through the same struggles as mine. I found a community."

-Sebastian Rubio fourth-year PhD candidate, mechanical engineering, cookout attendee

"Darlene Saporu's mentorship has created a warm and inclusive atmosphere for me, allowing me to fully enjoy my first year under her guidance. Her expertise, unwavering support, and commitment to my growth have been instrumental in my personal and professional development. I am grateful for her mentorship and highly recommend her to anyone seeking to excel in their endeavors."

-Laura McDaniel

Percy Pierre Fellow, PhD candidate, Electrical and Computer Engineering





ODI Student Ice Skating Social Event

Created opportunities for students to have fun and socialize







Passport to Future Technology Leadership

Passport to Future Technology Leadership (PFTL) is a program to enhance skills and create opportunities for URG doctoral students interested in industry careers. The goal of the PFTL curriculum is to provide career exploration, skill building for job seeking techniques, and mentoring for expanded networks.

GRADUATED IN 2022

FALL 2023 COHORT

NUMBER OF EVENTS IN 2022

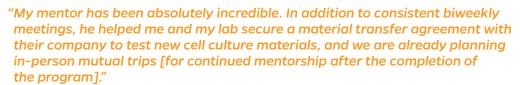
OF MENTORS ARE HOPKINS ALUMNI

PFTL Evaluation Feedback

8 OF 8 RESPONDED

100% of survey participants would recommend PFTL to peers.

62.5% of survey participants thought it would be somewhat or extremely difficult to get consistent professional development workshops outside of PFTL.



"The mentorship was AMAZING, I feel so lucky to have gone through the PFTL program."



Belonging

Black Excellence Conference

DECEMBER 2. 2022

The inaugural Black Excellence Conference was designed for



doctoral students across Johns Hopkins University from the diaspora to provide an authentic space for bold conversations. Sponsored by the Provost's Office PhD Professional Development Innovation grant, this conference covered topics facilitated by guest speakers from a variety of disciplines, higher education leadership, faculty researchers, community advocates, and a financial advisor.

These self-reflective, engaging seminars included topics and panel discussions covering;

- The Makeup of a Leader: Traits that Make You Great
- Finding a Career That Matches Your Passion
- Navigating the Threat of Racial Stereotypes at Work
- Showing up as Your Authentic Self Matters
- Managing Your Mental Well-being
- Financial Investment from Your Future
- Self-advocacy
- Learning Best Practices for Community Engagement

Black Excellence Conference Planning Committee

Darlene Saporu, Assistant Dean for Diversity and Inclusion, Whiting School of Engineering

Stacey Marks, Diversity Program Manager, Whiting School of Engineering

Roshni Rao, Executive Director of Doctoral and Postdoctoral Career Design

Brittney Tiffault, PhD Student, Cross-Disciplinary **Graduate Program in Biomedical Sciences**

Habben Desta, PhD Candidate, Department of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering

Mary Omotoso, PhD Candidate, Department of Biomedical Engineering

Christine Kavanagh, Associate Vice Dean for Graduate Education and Lifelong Learning, Whiting School of Engineering

Black Excellence Conference Notable Stats









"Specifically, it can be challenging to persist and feel a sense of belonging in spaces where there are few people who look like you or empathize with your experiences. The inaugural Black Excellence Conference provided me with both a strong sense of community and the opportunity to make lasting connections with Black graduate students that I otherwise would not have had the opportunity to meet. Sharing a space with successful Black people at the graduate level and above was magnetic, rejuvenating, and inspiring, and I hope to see more events like this at Hopkins."

Habben Desta

Doctoral student, Department of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering Conference planning committee member





KEISHA POLLACK-PORTER. BLOOMBERG CENTENNIAL CHAIR. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH POLICY AND MANAGEMENT PROFESSOR



BEC Feedback

ATTENDEES WROTE:

"The presentations were insightful and constituted a compelling showcase of Black Excellence that need to be enacted more frequently across the country.

"It was great to be in community with other Black scholars while learning how to improve my time at the university"

"I really enjoyed the speakers and the networking sessions to meet other Black grad students."



CHIEF Creator of The Momentology Method



"MANY OF THE SPEAKERS WERE PHENOMENAL.
THE FOOD WAS GREAT! THE NETWORKING AND
JUST CONNECTING WAS WONDERFUL. A GREAT
ONE-DAY CONFERENCE!"

BLACK EXCELLENCE CONFERENCE ATTENDEE

