
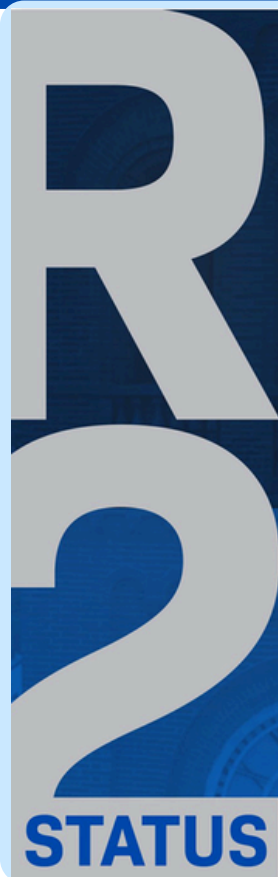


HAMPTON RESEARCH BEAT

THE OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT FOR RESEARCH NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2025 | VOLUME 4 | ISSUE 1



IT'S OFFICIAL!
HAMPTON UNIVERSITY
HAS ATTAINED
RESEARCH 2
(R2) STATUS

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“ ”

Achieving Research 2 status reflects our unwavering dedication to academic excellence, groundbreaking research, and the expansion of opportunities for our students and faculty. This milestone strengthens our position among the nation's leading research institutions and enhances our ability to make a meaningful impact through scholarship and discovery.

- PRESIDENT DARRELL K. WILLIAMS

STATUS

Elevating Excellence: Hampton University Achieves R2 Classification

Hampton University has officially attained Research 2 (R2) status—High Research Spending and Doctorate Production—by the Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education. This prestigious designation places Hampton among an elite cohort of 139 institutions nationwide that meet the rigorous benchmarks of at least \$5 million in annual research expenditures and the awarding of 20 or more research doctorates each year.

Among the 101 Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) in the United States, only 13 hold a Research 2 designation, reinforcing the rarity and prestige of this classification. Achieving Research 2 status is a key pillar of “Elevating Hampton Excellence,” the university’s 10-year strategic plan, which prioritizes research growth, academic excellence, and institutional advancement.

“This designation highlights the tremendous progress Hampton has made in research and innovation,” said Dr. Neelam Azad, vice president for research. “Our faculty and students are engaged in groundbreaking research with real-world impact. Achieving Research 2 status is a significant breakthrough that not only expands our research capacity but also enhances our ability to secure funding and drive transformative advancements in critical fields of study. This achievement emphasizes our commitment to innovation, discovery, and academic excellence.”

Through the “Elevating Hampton Excellence” strategic plan, the university will continue strengthening its research enterprise by investing in faculty excellence, interdisciplinary collaborations, and cutting-edge facilities. With a bold vision for the future, Hampton is poised to expand its research impact on both a national and global scale.

Read the full article here: [Hampton University Achieves Prestigious Research 2 Designation](#)

RESEARCH GRANTS



DR. SHIBABRAT NAIK

Dr. Shibabrat Naik joined Hampton University in September 2023 as a faculty member in the Department of Mathematics in the School of Science, and as a member of the Center for Fusion Training and Research to build the lab-scale stellarator, STAR_Lite, for training fusion scientists and answering novel questions related to stellarator research. Dr. Naik has secured a \$1.4 million grant from the U.S. Department of Energy entitled, “Developing an Interdisciplinary Fusion Workforce Hub and building STAR_Lite at Hampton University”. Three faculty from the School of Science – Dr. Calvin Lowe, Dr. Alkesh Punjabi and Dr. Georg Harrer, serve as co-investigators on the award.

Dr. Naik’s research interests are in theory and applications of nonlinear dynamics, chaos, computational science and engineering, and magnetic confinement of plasma. He obtained his Ph.D. in Engineering Mechanics from Virginia Tech and trained as a postdoctoral researcher in engineering at Drexel University and University of Pennsylvania, and in applied mathematics at University of Bristol and University of Warwick.



MR. BILL THOMAS

Mr. Bill Thomas is the Associate Vice President of Governmental Relations at Hampton University. Prior to this position he held positions as a Senior Vice President in commercial banking and as a consultant and economist for several private sector businesses with experience in commercial and real estate development. Mr. Thomas has significant political leadership experience in campaigns and fund raising, and economic development.

Through his leadership and strategic advocacy, Mr. Thomas has helped secure \$10 million in state funding this year to support a range of health programs at Hampton University. These funds will directly benefit initiatives including the Hampton University Proton Cancer Institute, further strengthening the University’s commitment to cutting-edge research and patient care. Mr. Thomas’ dedication continues to play a vital role in elevating Hampton’s mission to serve as a national leader in health equity and innovation.



RESEARCH WORKSHOP



DR. BETTY H. STEWART
Executive Vice President & Provost
Keynote Speaker



VPR TEAM

Front Row (L to R): Ms. Tiajuana Jackson, Dr. Neelam Azad, Dr. Eric Sheppard, Ms. Lanet Hall
Back Row (L to R): Ms. Kathleen Broughton, Ms. Monica Rodriguez, Mr. Kacey Smith, Dr. Karen Brown

Breaking the Glass Ceiling: QEM Network Co-Hosts Impactful Federal Grant Proposal Workshop, Empowers Campus Researchers to Seek Federal Grant Opportunities

Quality Education for Minorities, (QEM), a non-profit organization dedicated to improving education for minorities across the nation, partnered with the Hampton University Office of Research to host a two-day Federal Grant Proposal Workshop, from January 8-9. This event brought together faculty and researchers from across the university to enhance their knowledge and skills in pursuing federal research funding, emphasizing the institution's commitment to advancing research excellence at HBCUs.

"Hampton's faculty members and other thought leaders across the campus have been instrumental in raising awareness about the wealth of opportunities available to HBCUs through federal grants," said Hampton University President Darrell K. Williams. "By equipping our researchers with these tools, we're not only enhancing their individual success but also elevating Hampton University's role as a leading research powerhouse as we deliver the #1 student experience in America."

Hampton University's commitment to expanding its research portfolio and supporting its faculty in securing external funding is a key priority as the university continues to champion innovation and academic excellence. The QEM Federal Grant Proposal Workshop represents a significant step forward in achieving these goals and ensuring the institution's contributions to research remain impactful and far-reaching.

"Research and innovation are important to Hampton University and it's the second strategic goal for the institution," said Dr. Neelam Azad, Vice President for Research, Hampton University. "Our strategy for becoming an R1 research institution is to increase the number of research proposals that our faculty is writing. The QEM workshop is a great opportunity to engage our faculty. Collaborations with federal agencies, private organizations, industry leaders, National Labs (e.g., JLABs and Fermi), and NASA demonstrate Hampton's ability to leverage external resources effectively."

Read the full article here:

[Hampton University Champions Research with Federal Grant Workshop](#)

VPR STAFF NEWS



The Office of the VPR proudly announces the appointment of **Tiajuana Jackson**, director of the Office of Sponsored Programs, to the Board of Directors for the National Sponsored Program Administrators Alliance of Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Inc. (NSPAA-HBCU, Inc.), a nonprofit organization dedicated to enhancing the efficiency and effectiveness of sponsored program administration across HBCUs.

Ms. Jackson will play a pivotal role in advancing the organization's mission to improve sponsored research administration through increased technical assistance workshops, conferences, training, and service activities. Sponsored programs serve as a foundation for academic excellence, research innovation, and community impact.

Read the full article here: [Board Appointment](#)



The Office of the VPR is pleased to announce the addition of **Kacey Smith** as Contracts Officer within the Office of Sponsored Programs. In this vital role, Mr. Smith oversees the review, negotiation, and execution of research-related contracts, ensuring alignment with institutional policies, sponsor requirements, and regulatory standards.

With a strong focus on legal, financial, and intellectual property considerations, Mr. Smith works closely with faculty, researchers, and external sponsors to provide expert guidance on contract terms and risk management. His collaborative approach and deep knowledge of research administration make him a valuable asset to the team.



The Office of the VPR is delighted to welcome **Lanet Hall** as the new Executive Assistant to the Vice President for Research. With a strong background in administrative support and a keen eye for organization, Ms. Hall brings a wealth of experience in managing complex schedules, streamlining communications, and ensuring the smooth day-to-day operations of executive offices.

In her new role, Ms. Hall will serve as a key point of contact for internal and external stakeholders, supporting the VPR's strategic initiatives and helping to advance the university's research mission.

RESEARCH TRIVIA

David Crosthwait was known as the country's leading expert in HVAC design. In the 1920s and 1930s, he patented several innovations for more effective heating and cooling systems for larger buildings. He designed a system to heat this building in New York City (select one or more):

A. Radio City Music Hall B. Rockefeller Center C. Madison Garden D. Barclays Center

B AND A : R E S W N S E R C O R R E C T

Link to the website:
[Hampton Research Beat](#)

For more information contact us
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