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BranchED Bulletin

Apr. 08, 2021



\$45 Billion for Research at MSIs Proposed by the Biden Administration

Through President Joe Biden's infrastructure proposal, minority serving institutions (MSIs) stand to gain about \$30 billion for research and related facilities, according to an April 2, 2021 *Higher Ed Dive* article by Hallie Busta. Another \$15 billion would be allocated to these institutions to create up to 200

research incubators, as well as a climate-focused lab that would be associated with a historically black college or university. [\[READ MORE\]](#)

Minority Serving Institutions Make Their Presence Known in U.S. News & World Report's Best Graduate Education Schools

According to the recent rankings from *U.S. News & World Report's* Best Grad Schools, a number of minority serving institutions found places on the list. The 2022 Best Education Schools (ranked in 2021), to earn a masters degree in education are ranked on the list. Visit *U.S. News & World Report's* website to view the full list. [\[READ MORE\]](#)



BranchED Congratulates Texas A&M International University Dean on His Selection to the Consortium for Research-Based and Equitable Assessments

James O'Meara, Ed.D., dean of the Texas A&M International University's School of Education, which is part of BranchED's **National Teacher Preparation Transformation Center Cohort 2**, recently was invited by the American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education (AACTE) to join the **Consortium for Research-Based and Equitable Assessments (CREA)**. Dr. O'Meara's selection to participate in the

consortium was made by consideration of his successful track record of preparing educators for the workforce, commitment to interagency collaboration, understanding of the challenges facing the profession, and his commitment to ensure a more diverse educator workforce.

Omar Abdullah Tapped as BranchED's New Chief of Staff

Omar Abdullah, Ph.D., has been named BranchED's Chief of Staff. Providing direct support to BranchED's President/CEO Cassandra Herring, Ph.D. Dr. Abdullah will help ensure executive effectiveness and further BranchED's development and external relations efforts.

Prior to this role, Dr. Abdullah served as the Vice President of Marketing & Outreach at Cultivate Behavioral Health & Education, where he established a national outreach department that connected with care providers, non-profit organizations, and communities to provide resources to families navigating the autism treatment journey.



Dr. Abdullah also is an interdisciplinary scholar and communication consultant. He has taught courses at the University of California Davis and Texas A&M University. He has spoken at conferences and facilitated workshops at Trinity University and South by Southwest Conference and Festivals. Dr. Abdullah earned his Bachelor's in Communication from Saint Mary's College and he earned his Ph.D. in Cultural Studies from the University of California, Davis. Additionally, Dr. Abdullah is a former stand-up and sketch comedian performing in venues all across the San Francisco Bay Area.



Join **Cassandra Herring**, Ph.D., BranchED president/CEO, and **Tara Plachowski**, Ph.D., BranchED research associate, for an American Educational Research Association (AERA) Roundtable that will highlight the [*Creating a Community of Learners: A Case Study*](#), a BranchED publication. The session is "[Exploring Equitable School and University Partnerships](#)."

Time: **1:30 to 3 p.m. CT**

Date: **Saturday, April 10, 2021**

The session is part of [AERA's "Accepting Educational Responsibility" 2021 Virtual Annual Meeting](#), April 8-12, 2021. The event is billed as the world's largest gathering of educational researchers and a showcase for groundbreaking, innovative studies.

Dr. Plachowski also will chair an AERA Roundtable on "[Why Can't We Talk About Race? Challenging the Race-Evasive Culture of Teacher Education and Teaching](#)."

Time: **8:30-9:30 a.m. CT**

Date: **Monday, April 12, 2021**

#AERA21 #EducatorDiversity

**The Right Kind of Professional Engagement Can
Make a Difference in Educator Preparation Teams**

Reconceptualizing the Future of Teacher Prep

What is the future of teacher preparation? This BranchED Nuts & Bolts Webinar Series is designed to synergistically engage educators toward the reconceptualization of teacher prep, field experiences, assessment, and partnership. Joining BranchED in unpacking the issues and tackling the difficult questions will be seasoned veterans and experts from the field, including [Art Cavazos](#), [Christian Faltis](#) and [Rodney Robinson](#). **The deadline to register is Friday, April 16, 2021.** This webinar is **no cost** to the MSI community. [[LEARN MORE](#)]



What: **Reconceptualizing the Future of Teacher Prep - Nuts & Bolts Webinar**

Time: **Noon – 1:30 p.m.**

Date: **Wednesday, April 21, 2021**

Format: **Virtual - Zoom**

[REGISTER NOW!](#)



Social Emotional Learning (SEL) QEP Standards Both in Higher Education and K-12 Classrooms

In this 2-hour/2 day workshop, participants will learn strategies for applying Social Emotional Learning (SEL) both in higher education and K-12 classrooms. Day 1 will focus on modeling SEL in the higher education classroom with teacher candidates. Day 2 will move SEL into K-12 classrooms to ensure that teacher candidates have the skillsets they need to effectively practice SEL with K-12 students. This session will be led by [Valeisha Ellis, Ph.D.](#), assistant professor at Spelman College. Assisting Dr. Ellis will be **Tiffany**

Pogue, Ph.D., assistant professor at Albany State University; **Brittany Gibson**, counselor with Global Impact Academy; and **Jhanai Clark**, fifth-grade teacher at Michael R. Hollis Innovation Academy (below, L to R). **The deadline to register is Tuesday, April 20, 2021.** This workshop is **no cost** to the MSI community. [[LEARN MORE](#)]

What: **Social Emotional Learning, 2-Day Workshop**

When: **Noon - 2 p.m. CT. / Tuesday and Wednesday, April 27 and 28, 2021**

Format: **Virtual - Zoom**

[REGISTER NOW!](#)



**NOT YOUR AVERAGE
INSTITUTE - Make
Plans to Attend**



BranchED's 2021 Open Educational Resource Summer Institute

BranchED is offering an exciting professional development opportunity this summer: the **2021 Open Educational Resource (OER) Summer Institute**. The purpose of this initiative is to provide teacher educators at MSI educator preparation programs (EPPs) access to high-quality, openly licensed teaching resources. Participants of the OER Summer Institute will be guided through the development of OER instructional materials for use in Fall foundational or subject-area teacher preparation courses. Successful completion includes an honorarium. [READ MORE](#) about the OER Summer Institute.

The event launches with a 2-day workshop from **noon – 2 p.m. CT on June 8-9**, followed by a four-week content development program with weekly check-in meetings ending **Friday, July 9, 2021**. [\[APPLY NOW\]](#)

The deadline to apply is 11:59 pm CT Friday, May 21, 2021. Please direct inquiries about the OER Summer Institute to [Aubree Evans](#), director of professional learning.

*We invite you to apply, and please share this opportunity
with your EPP and content-area colleagues!*

[Explore More BranchED Learning Opportunities Here](#)

Follow BranchED's social media network and join in the MSI conversations.
Hashtags: **#EducatorDiversity #Diversity #MSIs #DEI #TeachersOfColor #HigherEd**

