



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The National Institute of Standards and Technology Signs Partnership Agreement with the Science and Engineering Alliance

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The National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) has entered into a partnership with the Science and Engineering Alliance (SEA). The Partnership Agreement will support and foster collaborative research among the members of the SEA and NIST staff, and will serve as a vehicle for the exchange of students, faculty, and staff members between the SEA institutions and NIST.

The Partnership Agreement will harmonize and enhance the scientific, technical, and creative resources and talents of the SEA member institutions, and advance the knowledge in the fields of chemical and physical science and engineering while producing top quality graduate and undergraduate students.

"We are pleased to enter into this partnership with the SEA institutions and look forward to enhancing our potential for gaining access to students for our Graduate Fellowship Programs, providing summer employment opportunities for top quality students, and facilitating research of mutual interest to NIST and SEA members," said Dr. Arden L. Bement, Jr., Director of NIST.

"The SEA is a unique resource for the nation and this new partnership is another example of the progress being made through SEA. The SEA partners are pleased to expose NIST to our faculty's work in chemistry and material science, information technology, sensor development, and environmental science, all of which might be useful in the measurements, standards, and technology work conducted by NIST," noted Dr. John T. Gibson, President of Alabama A&M University and Chair of the SEA Executive Board.

The agreement was executed through the efforts of Dr. Robert L. Shepard, Executive Director of SEA, on behalf of the member institutions. SEA member institutions are four state supported historically black colleges and universities (HBCUs) that include Alabama A&M University (Huntsville, AL), Jackson State University (Jackson, MS), Prairie View A&M University (Prairie View, TX), and Southern University and A&M College (Baton Rouge, LA), in alliance with Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL), in Livermore, CA. The SEA was established in response to a reduction in resources for undergraduate and graduate education and a government and industry mandate to improve science and mathematics education at all levels, including enhanced research infrastructure and participation by

faculty and students in high-quality, collaborative research in science, engineering and related fields.

The SEA has received support from the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), U.S. Department of Education (DoED), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA), National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), and U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA).

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