

# **DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE**

**Office of Diversity Management and Equal Opportunity**

**“Taking the Pentagon to the People”**



**May 23-24, 2018  
New Jersey City University  
School of Business  
Jersey City, NJ**





**OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE  
4000 DEFENSE PENTAGON  
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-4000**



**PERSONNEL AND  
READINESS**



May 23, 2018

Dear Participants:

Welcome! Please join the Department of Defense (DoD) in expressing gratitude to New Jersey City University for allowing DoD to hold this “Taking the Pentagon to the People” event at their campus. New Jersey City University continues to support government collaboration and joins the many other HBCUs/MSIs in producing some of America’s top talent in our public and private sectors.

It is our goal to engage with educational and policy leaders and staff, and administrators and university students to showcase DoD as a model employer. We also aim to present HBCUs/MSIs leaders and faculty with information regarding prospective participation in DoD science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) efforts; human capital development; research and development programs; and educational opportunities for their students and faculty. Moreover, we endeavor to encourage meaningful collaboration between HBCUs/MSIs and DoD.

With continued support and collaborative efforts between government and the private sector, MSIs will continue to play a critical role in our Nation by preparing men and women for the workforce and providing innovation and technology solutions in support of our men and women in uniform.

Again, welcome and thank you for joining us!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Clarence A. Johnson".

Clarence A. Johnson, SES  
Director  
Office of Diversity Management  
and Equal Opportunity



## OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

May 23, 2018

Warm Welcome to all Participants, Guests, Speakers and Hosts:

On behalf of the New Jersey City University, I am delighted to welcome you to our campus for the Department of Defense Technical Assistance Workshop, "Taking the Pentagon to the People." It is a great honor to have leaders from Federal Agencies, Military services, Civic, Business and Educational communities to visit with us on our Harborside campus for this important event. The workshop is sponsored by the Office of Diversity Management and Equal Opportunity in support of the opportunities that exist in research grants, contracts, infrastructure enhancement, internship, sustainability, STEM education, human capital and workforce development.

New Jersey City University is one of the most diverse universities with "student success" at the very core of its mission. NJCU prepares students for careers as leaders in a global society within the comforts of an intimate community and provides an educational experience that helps prepare our students for career success and global impact. The University is committed to the improvement of the educational, intellectual, cultural, socioeconomic, and physical environment of the surrounding urban region and beyond. NJCU's emphasis is to enhance research programs that aligns well with the objectives of this workshop and to enhance our rich legacy of providing higher education opportunities to minorities, soldiers, and veterans.

Increasing the number of graduates in STEM disciplines, especially among underrepresented student populations, remains one of our topmost priorities in the NJCU Strategic Plan. To support such efforts, we have made significant strides and investments in faculty, instrumentation and infrastructures to support STEM disciplines. Through our Office of Research Grants and Sponsored Programs, we aim to increase research partnerships through grants, contracts, private partnerships and inter-disciplinary collaborative research programs with support from the Department of Defense. Our nationally recognized Colleges such as Arts and Science, Educational Technology and Professional Security Studies along with School of Business offer programs that address critical need of our community and local businesses to produce entrepreneurs locally and nationally. This workshop will be highly useful to develop networking for our faculty and staff, and internship opportunities for our students which will open doors for intellectual property development supporting our national security.

I would like to thank Mr. Daniel Farmer, Dr. Dorothy Huston and Mr. Edwan O'Neal of TMT Group, Inc. and Dr. Ashok Vaseashta, Executive Director, Office of Research Grants and Sponsored Programs, for their leadership and tireless efforts to coordinate this workshop through the Office of Diversity Management and Equal Opportunity, Department of Defense.

On behalf of the New Jersey City University, thank you for attending this meeting and partnering with NJCU to meet the needs of the Department of Defense community.

Sincerely,

Sue Henderson, Ph.D.  
President

# DoD LEADERSHIP



**Mr. Clarence A. Johnson, SES**  
**Director**  
**Office of Diversity Management and Equal Opportunity**  
**Office of the Under Secretary of Defense**  
**Pentagon**

In February 2003, Clarence A. Johnson was selected to the Senior Executive Service and assigned as Principal Director and Director for Civilian Equal Employment Opportunity, Office of the Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (Equal Opportunity) at the Pentagon; the office was renamed in 2006 to the Office of Diversity Management and Equal Opportunity. In that capacity, he is responsible for the development and coordination of diversity management and equal opportunities policies and programs affecting all DoD civilian employees and military personnel within DoD worldwide. He also provides staff supervision of the Defense Equal Opportunity Management Institute (DEOMI), a 100-member institution, located at Patrick Air Force Base, Florida, which is the premiere DoD school in equal opportunity and equal employment opportunity training, education and research. Mr. Johnson serves as principal advisor to the Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel & Readiness) on diversity management, equal opportunity and equal employment opportunity matters. In January 2009, Mr. Johnson was selected to a special temporary assignment, where he stood up a permanent organization with a key requirement to oversee policies that ensure support for our wounded, ill and injured service members, veterans and their families. Supporting the Secretary's priorities, the organization he built, the Executive Secretariat (Senior Oversight Committee and Joint Executive Council)/Office of Strategic Planning and Performance Management (ES), served as the key forcing function for integrating DoD and VA activities.

From May 2009 until February 2010, Mr. Johnson was chosen to serve as the Acting Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (Plans). In that key role, he provided leadership and oversight of all USD(P&R) Plans functions. From May 2010 until July 2010, Mr. Johnson was again designated as the Acting Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (Plans). In October 2010, Mr. Johnson was detailed as the Special Assistant to the Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army (Diversity and Leadership) assist the Army in implementing a robust diversity strategy. He stood up a Division, Diversity and EEO Policy and Programs, where he served as its Director until his return in February 2012 to his present position as Director, Office of Diversity Management and Equal Opportunity. Mr. Johnson entered active duty service as a C141 navigator. In addition to global airlift and contingency operations, his tours of duty included the Military Airlift Command Plans staff and Air Staff Training (ASTRA). He was a squadron commander three times and a group commander twice. Additionally, he held increasingly responsible positions at the headquarters and installation level. His decorations include the Defense Superior Service Medal (with one Oak Leaf Cluster), the Legion of Merit, and the Meritorious Service Medal (with three oak leaf clusters). Mr. Johnson holds a master's degree in human resource management from Webster University, Missouri, and a bachelor's degree in biology from Tuskegee Institute, Alabama. Mr. Johnson is also a graduate of Air Command and Staff College and the Air War College, Alabama, and the National Security Management Course, National Defense University.

# UNIVERSITY LEADERSHIP



**Dr. Sue Henderson**  
**President**  
**New Jersey City**  
**University Jersey City, NJ**

Dr. Sue Henderson has served as the 12<sup>th</sup> and first woman president of New Jersey City University since August 2012. Now in her sixth year, she has accomplished a range of transformational initiatives. Dr. Henderson created the NJCU School of Business and relocated it to a 70,000-square-foot, state-of-the-art facility in Jersey City's financial district. She spearheaded the implementation of a \$350 million West Campus plan which features a fully integrated, pedestrian-friendly, mixed-use development for a student residence hall, academic building and performance arts center, a fitness center, supermarket, shops and restaurants. She hired approximately one third of the 256 full-time faculty in areas identified as critical to meeting academic needs in high-demand fields of study: nursing, STEM, business, counseling, and pre-law. Dr. Henderson additionally ensured that NJCU tuition and fees remain among the lowest of all the public, four-year colleges and universities in New Jersey, and implemented the NJCU Debt Free Promise Program to make a college education accessible and affordable. Dr. Henderson holds a Ph.D. in Higher Education from the University of Georgia, and bachelor's and master's degrees in math education from Georgia State University. Dr. Henderson has received numerous awards for her work as an educator and administrator.

# CITY LEADERSHIP



**Mr. Steven Michael Fulop**  
**Mayor**  
**Jersey City, NJ**

Mayor Steven Michael Fulop is the 49th and current Mayor of Jersey City, New Jersey – named in 2017 the second most diverse city in the nation and the soon-to-be largest city in New Jersey. Since Mayor Fulop took office in 2013, Jersey City residents have seen four consecutive years of stable taxes and four consecutive credit rating upgrades. Meanwhile, more than 300 new police officers have been hired, nearly 1,500 units of affordable housing built or approved, recreation expanded with nearly 30 new programs, and more than \$6 million invested in parks and open space. During his time in office, Mayor Fulop has shown what smart, progressive leadership can accomplish – and opened a new chapter for Jersey City.

Under his leadership, Jersey City became the first city in the state – and the 6th city in the country – to ensure paid sick leave. Mayor Fulop has pioneered new ideas for helping prisoners re-enter society; he's passed legislation to protect small businesses, encouraged more to open shops; and made Jersey City one of the greenest cities in the nation. He's undertaken sweeping public safety reform, with the JCPD now seen as a model for diversity around the nation. And Mayor Fulop has led the city to record economic development that's benefited families of all income levels. All without raising taxes.

Mayor Fulop is a first-generation American, a lifelong New Jerseyan, a Marine, and a triathlete. He grew up in a Jewish family in Edison, New Jersey, the son of Romanian immigrants. His mother was the daughter of Holocaust survivors and worked in an immigration services office helping others gain citizenship. His father owned a delicatessen nearby in Newark, where Mayor Fulop worked behind the counter as a teenager.

Mayor Fulop graduated from Binghamton University in 1999 and spent time abroad studying at Oxford University in the UK. After college, he joined Goldman Sachs, the investment banking firm, working in Chicago and later in Manhattan and Jersey City. On the morning of September 11, 2001, Mayor Fulop was working in lower Manhattan when he saw the first plane strike the Twin Towers. A few weeks later, he decided to put his career at Goldman Sachs on hold and join the United States Marine Corps.

Mayor Fulop's Reserve Unit deployed to Iraq in January 2003. There, he served as part of the 6th Engineer Support Battalion. He traveled into Baghdad during the early weeks of the war. In 2006, Mayor Fulop completed his service to the Marine Corps Reserve with the rank of Corporal.

In 2005, Mayor Fulop was first elected to public office as the councilman representing downtown Jersey City. He served as a councilman for eight years before becoming Mayor.

Mayor Fulop is an avid runner and triathlete. He ran the NYC Marathon in 2012, raising money for the Hudson County Child Abuse Prevention Center. He also competed in the Ironman Championship in NYC that year to raise money for veterans.

**THEME:** “Partnering to Promote Excellence and Innovation at  
Historically Black Colleges/Universities and Minority Serving Institutions (HBCU/MI)”  
Pursuant to the White House Initiative (WHI)  
Presidential Executive Order 13779

**Agenda**

**Wednesday, May 23, 2018**

**8:30 AM                      Registration and Continental Breakfast**

**9:00 AM                      Welcome and Opening Session**

**Presiding:**

Dr. Ashok Vaseashta  
Executive Director  
Office of Research Grants and Sponsored Programs  
New Jersey City University  
Jersey City, NJ

**Presentation of the Colors**

ROTC Color Guard

**The National Anthem**

*Soloist:*

Mr. Israel Hernandez ‘18

*Pianist:*

Mr. Isaac del Rosario ‘18

**Official Welcome Remarks**

Dr. Sue Henderson  
President  
New Jersey City University  
Jersey City, NJ

Mr. Steven Michael Fulop  
Mayor  
Jersey City, NJ

Mr. Clarence A. Johnson, SES  
Director  
Office of Diversity Management & Equal Opportunity  
Office of the Under Secretary of Defense  
Pentagon

**9:30 AM**

**Opening Plenary**

**Topic: Taking the Pentagon to the People: Purpose & Objectives**

*Introduction of Speaker:*

Dr. Sue Henderson  
President  
New Jersey City University  
Jersey City, NJ

**Speaker:**

Mr. Clarence A. Johnson, SES  
Director  
Office of Diversity Management & Equal Opportunity  
Office of the Under Secretary of Defense  
Pentagon

**10:00 AM**

**Session I: Doing Business with DoD**

*Introduction of Speaker:*

Dr. Bernard McSherry  
Dean  
School of Business  
New Jersey City University  
Jersey City, NJ

**Speaker:**

Ms. Sharon R. Morrow  
Assistant to the Director  
Army Office of Small Business Programs (OSBP)  
Mentor-Protégé Program Manager  
Liaison for Small Business Innovative Research (SBIR) and Small  
Business Technology Transfer (STTR), Workforce Development  
Pentagon

**11:00 AM**

**Morning Break**

**11:15 AM**

**Session II: Department of Defense Career and Scholarship  
Opportunities – Come Make a Difference!**

*Introduction of Speaker:*

Mr. Alfred E. Ramey, Jr. *Esq.*  
University Ethics Liaison Officer, President's Office  
New Jersey City University  
Jersey City, NJ

**Speaker:**

Ms. Karen S. Hannah  
Associate Director  
Strategic Recruitment Division  
Defense Civilian Personnel Advisory Service  
Department of Defense, OSD/CPP  
Alexandria, VA

**12:15 PM**

**Session III: Lunch**

**U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Diversity and Leadership Initiatives**

**Host:**

Dr. Daniel J. Julius  
Provost and Senior Vice President  
New Jersey City University  
Jersey City, NJ

*Introduction of Speaker:*

Dr. Guillermo De Veyga  
Chief of Staff  
New Jersey City University  
Jersey City, NJ

**Speaker:**

Mr. James Braxton  
Chief  
Office of Diversity and Leadership  
U. S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Washington, D.C.

**1:15 PM**

**Session IV: U.S. Army Joint Munitions Command Outreach,  
Recruiting & Workforce Development**

*Introduction of Speakers:*

Dr. Gail Marquis  
Director, NJCU Business Development Incubator  
New Jersey City University  
Jersey City, NJ

**Speakers:**

Ms. Tamara L. Moland  
Director  
Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO)  
Headquarters, U. S. Army, Joint Munitions Command  
Rock Island, IL

Ms. Melissa Hearn  
Black/African American – Special Emphasis Program Manager and  
Inventory Management Specialist  
Headquarters, U. S. Army, Joint Munitions Command  
Rock Island, IL

**2:15 PM**

**Session V: ORAU Research Participation Opportunities in the U.S.  
Department of Defense**

*Introduction of Speaker:*

Dr. Michael Chumer  
Professor of Professional Security Studies (*adj.*)  
New Jersey City University  
Jersey City, NJ

**Speaker:**

Dr. Robert “Bob” Gibson  
Director  
NASA Postdoctoral Program  
Oak Ridge Associated Universities (ORAU)  
Oak Ridge, TN

**3:00 PM**

**Afternoon Break**

**3:15 PM**

**Session VI: Mentorship Programs and Outreach**

*Introduction of Speaker:*

Dr. Sarah Vandermark  
Assistant Provost  
Student Success  
New Jersey City University  
Jersey City, NJ

**Speaker:**

Mr. Shannon Jackson  
Acting Deputy Director  
Mentor-Protégé Program/Outreach/Socioeconomic Programs  
Office of Small Business Programs  
Alexandria, VA

**4:00 PM                      Session VII: Student and Faculty Opportunities with DoN HBCU/MI Program**

*Introduction of Speaker:*

Dr. Deborah Woo

Dean

College of Education/Professional Studies

New Jersey City University

Jersey City, NJ

**Speaker:**

Mr. Anthony C. Smith, Sr.

Director

Department of Navy's (DoN) HBCU/MI Program

Arlington, VA

**5:00 PM                      Closing Remarks & Evaluation**

**5:15 PM                      Session VIII: President's Welcome and Networking Reception  
Location: Skyline Room**

**Music by Mr. Isaac del Rosario '18**

**Host:**

Dr. Sue Henderson

President

New Jersey City University

Jersey City, NJ

**Remarks:**

Dr. Sue Henderson

President

New Jersey City University

Jersey City, NJ

Mr. Clarence A. Johnson, SES

Director

Office of Diversity Management and Equal Opportunity

Office of the Under Secretary for Defense

Department of Defense

Pentagon

**Thursday, May 24, 2018**

**8:30 AM**

**Registration**

**Presiding:**

Dr. Ashok Vaseashta  
Executive Director  
Office of Research Grants and Sponsored Programs  
New Jersey City University  
Jersey City, NJ

**9:00 AM**

**Session IX: DoD SMART Program Opportunities**

*Introduction of Speaker:*

Dr. Christina McSherry  
Associate Dean  
College of Professional Studies  
New Jersey City University  
Jersey City, NJ

**Speaker:**

Mr. Joseph “Joe” Morici  
Contractor Support  
Science, Mathematics, and Research Transformation (SMART)  
Office of the Under Secretary of Defense (Research and Engineering)  
Arlington, VA

**10:00 AM**

**Session X: HBCU/MI Competitiveness in the DoD Arena: Best Practices**

*Introduction of Speaker:*

Dr. Joao Sedycias  
Dean, College of Arts and Science  
New Jersey City University  
Jersey City, NJ

**Speaker:**

Dr. Enrique Barrera  
Professor of Materials Science and NanoEngineering  
Rice University  
Houston, TX

**11:00 AM**

**Morning Break**

**11:15 AM**

**Session XI: National Guard Bureau’s Minority College Outreach and Engagement Programs (MCOP)**

*Introduction of Speaker:*

Dr. Abdalla Darwish  
Presidential Professor  
Physics and Engineering Department  
Dillard University  
New Orleans, LA

**Speaker:**

Ms. Jacqueline Ray-Morris  
EEO Manager  
Minority College Outreach Programs  
National Guard Bureau  
Arlington, VA

**12:15 PM**

**Session XII: Lunch**

**Presidential Leadership Luncheon: (Federal, Regional, State and Local Officials Invited)**

**Host:**

Dr. Sue Henderson  
President  
New Jersey City University  
Jersey City, NJ

*Introduction of Speakers:*

Dr. Ashok Vaseashta  
Executive Director  
Office of Research Grants and Sponsored Programs  
New Jersey City University  
Jersey City, NJ

**TOPIC:** “Partnering to Promote Excellence and Innovation at Historically Black Colleges/Universities and Minority Serving Institutions (HBCU/MI)”  
Pursuant to the White House Initiative (WHI)  
Presidential Executive Order 13779

**Attendees Luncheon: “Developing Successful Technical Centers of Excellence”**

**Speakers:**

Dr. Shaik Jeelani  
Vice President for Research and Sponsored Programs and Graduate Dean  
Tuskegee University  
Tuskegee, AL

Mr. Enrico Serafini (NJCU, 1991)  
Founder and Managing Partner  
pExchange, LLC  
Arlington, VA

Representative  
Chamber of Commerce  
Jersey City, NJ

**1:15 PM**

**Session A: Research Collaboration and Internships with Air Force Research Laboratory**

*Introduction of Speaker:*  
Dr. Scott Mittman  
Interim Associate Dean  
New Jersey City University  
Jersey City, NJ

**Speaker**  
Dr. Noor Ahmed  
Senior Computer Scientist  
Information System Division (AFRL/RIS)  
Air Force Research Laboratory  
Rome, NY

**Session B: Students' Networking Session with DoD and Federal Agencies**

**2:15 PM**

**Closing Leading Remarks: The Path Forward**

Dr. Sue Henderson  
President  
New Jersey City University  
Jersey City, NJ

Mr. Clarence A. Johnson, SES  
Director  
Office of Diversity Management and Equal Opportunity  
Office of the Under Secretary for Defense  
Pentagon

Dr. Dorothy W. Huston  
Founder/ CEO  
TMT Group, Inc.  
Huntsville, AL

# BIOGRAPHIES



**Dr. Noor O. Ahmed**  
**Senior Computer Scientist**  
**Air Force Research Laboratory**  
**Rome, NY**

Dr. Noor O. Ahmed is a senior Computer Scientist at the Air Force Research Laboratory in Rome, NY since 2003. He holds a bachelor's degree from Utica College (2002), master's degree from Syracuse University (2006), and PhD from Purdue University (2016), all in computer science. His research areas include: Security issues in Service Oriented Architectures and Cloud Computing, Moving Target Defense, Publish/Subscribe, Semantic Computing, and P2P. Dr. Ahmed's recent assignments includes conducting R&D relative to secure Information Management Systems which includes feasibility studies, systems' architecture, design and development, and security evaluations. He evaluated industry/academia and DARPA proposals. He led small teams of in-house software engineers (government and contractors), and the program's scientific publications. He has participated on multiple AFRL funded projects with academia (i.e., Cornell, Vanderbilt, CMU, Purdue, and FIT) and industry (i.e., Boeing, Lockheed Martin and BBN). Dr. Ahmed has also participated on collaborative projects with government organizations such as DARPA, NAVY, and NATO C3I. He mentors, advises summer interns, and works closely with visiting research scholars. Dr. Ahmed has over a dozen peer reviewed publications, IEEE journal, conferences, workshops and book chapters.



**Dr. Enrique Barrera**  
**Professor**  
**Materials Science and NanoEngineering**  
**Rice University**  
**Houston, TX**

Dr. Enrique V. Barrera has 30 years of conducting engineering, research, and technology development in the materials science and engineering field. He has 28 years of conducting nanotechnology research to develop advanced nanotech materials, systems, and products. Dr. Barrera has 27 years of experience as a university professor at Rice University and several years where he worked in petrochemical and petroleum industries. He is a graduate of the University of Texas at Austin having BSME, MS, and PhDs from that prestigious institution. He was a postdoctoral fellow at the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia, PA and a postdoctoral associate at Brookhaven National Laboratory, in Upton, NY. He has had research stays at the Naval Air Development Center in Warminster, PA, Naval Research Laboratory in Washington, D.C., and the NASA Johnson Space Center in Houston, TX.

Dr. Barrera has published over 150 publications and reports, contributed to over 60 patents, and has consulted to numerous companies during his career. Dr. Barrera has been recognized as a National Young Investigator by the National Science Foundation (USA), as an Outstanding Educator by the Hispanic Engineering National Achievement Awards Conference (HENAAC), as an outstanding mentor by the Office of the President (USA) when he received the Presidential Award for Excellence in Science, Mathematics and Engineering Mentoring (PAESMEM), and as a 100 Most Influential by Hispanic Magazine. He is also a Fellow of the American Society of Materials (ASM International). Besides his professorship at Rice University, he is also a Distinguished Visiting Professor at Tec de Monterrey in Monterrey Mexico. He is being recognized with the ASM International 2018 Albert Easton White Distinguished Teacher Award for his contributions to Materials Science and Under-representation Outreach. Over the years there has been a great deal of interest in Barrera's contributions to science and engineering. ResearchGate indicates he has had over 4,600 citations of his publications, with a RG score of 35.98 putting him in the 95.0 percentile of all contributors to ResearchGate.



**Mr. James J. Braxton, Sr.**  
**Chief**  
**Diversity and Leadership**  
**Office of Diversity and Leadership**  
**U.S. Army Corps of Engineers**  
**Washington, DC**

Mr. James J. Braxton Sr., is a career Federal civil servant with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). He is currently the Chief, Office Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO), Headquarters (HQ), USACE, Washington, DC responsible for Command-wide Equal Employment Opportunity, Equal Opportunity, Diversity, and Sexual Harassment Assault Response Programs. Mr. Braxton is responsible for a command program overseeing 9 Divisions, 44 Districts, and 4 Centers. He is the career program manager for approximately 125 EEO Specialists. He has a total of 19 years of Federal government service, serving in a variety of positions including Chief, EEO Office, Humphrey Engineer Center Support Activity, USACE located in Washington, D.C. and Alexandria, Virginia; Director, Office of EEO, U.S. Army Material Command, Aviation and Missile Command, Huntsville, Alabama; EEO Specialist, HQ, USACE, Washington, D.C.; Labor Relations Specialist and Acting EEO Manager, Headquarters, Defense Logistics Agency (DLA), Fort Belvoir, Virginia; and Senior Program Analyst, Weapons System Support Manager, and Employee Relations Specialist, Defense Supply Center Richmond, DLA, Richmond Virginia.

Mr. Braxton is a retired U.S. Army Colonel with over 30+ years of active and reserve service with the U.S. Navy and U.S. Army. He has held the following specialties Air Defense Artillery, Quartermaster, Contracting and Military Police and served in the following positions: HQ, USACE Provost Marshal; HQ 80th Training Command Inspector General, Deputy Chief of Staff Comptroller (G8), Brigade (Bde) Executive Officer, Battalion (BN) Commander, Bn Executive Officer, Bde Logistics Officer and a host of other positions. Mr. Braxton is the 2009 recipient of Blacks in Government GAO Chapter Managing for Excellence Award and the 2011 Career Communications Group, Black Engineer of the Year Award for Diversity. His educational experience includes: MSA degree in administration from Central Michigan University, BS

degree in business and an Associate degree in banking and finance from West Virginia State University, certificates in public leadership from Brookings Institute and diversity and inclusion from Cornell University, graduate US Department of Agriculture's Graduate School Executive Potential Program for Senior-Level Employees and U.S. Army's Command and General Staff College. Mr. Braxton is currently pursuing a Doctorate in organizational leadership Northcentral University in Prescott, Arizona.



**Dr. Robert "Bob" Gibson**  
**Director**  
**NASA Postdoctoral Program**  
**Oak Ridge Associated Universities**  
**Oak Ridge, TN**

Dr. Robert Gibson joined Oak Ridge Associated Universities (ORAU) as director of the NASA Postdoctoral Program (NPP), which offers unique research opportunities at NASA facilities to highly talented national and international scientists and engineers who have completed their doctorate degree. Dr. Gibson is replacing Dr. Larry Vorhees, who is retiring this fall. As director of NPP, he will oversee the program and monitor all recruiting, evaluation, and budget activities related to NASA sponsors. He will also develop new programs and provide administrative functions for NPP.

With more than 15 years of experience in project management and training development, Dr. Gibson most recently served as a visiting professor at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, where he taught senior seminars in management and leadership. Previously, he served for 15 years as an officer in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, managing a variety of engineer organizations and projects both in the U.S. and overseas.

Dr. Gibson received his bachelor's degree in engineering from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, his master's degree in English from Pennsylvania State University, and his Doctorate of Education from Indiana University of Pennsylvania. He is also a graduate of the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College.



**Ms. Karen S. Hannah**  
**Associate Director**  
**Strategic Recruitment Division**  
**Department of Defense, OSD/CPP**  
**Defense Civilian Personnel Advisory Service**  
**Alexandria, VA**

Ms. Karen Hannah joined the Department of Defense Civilian Personnel Advisory Service (DCPAS) in October 2004. DCPAS is responsible for providing support to the Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness) in planning and formulating civilian personnel programs, providing policy support, functional information management and departmentwide civilian administrative services for the military departments and defense

agencies. In May 2015, Ms. Hannah was named Director of the DCPAS Recruitment Assistance Division (RAD) with responsibility for promoting DoD civilian job opportunities and leading veteran recruitment and outreach activities.

Under her leadership, RAD designs and implements a corporate recruitment strategy to attract a diverse and talented pool of candidates through outreach programs to educational institutions of higher education and professional organizations. Ms. Hannah also oversees the management of the DoD Hiring Heroes Program, a program she developed and implemented in 2005, which places special emphasis on supporting Wounded Warriors, transitioning service members, veterans and military spouses in their search for employment with the Federal government and private sector as well. Prior to this position, Ms. Hannah served as the DoD Veterans Employment and Outreach Branch Chief and Hiring Heroes Program Manager. In this capacity, her team has conducted over 70 Hiring Heroes Career Fairs around the globe, to include support activities such as: resume writing, employment and PTSD/TBI workshops, military spouse employment information sessions, networking with industry events and Transition Assistance Program (TAP) seminars. The RAD team proudly continues to conduct approximately 8 Career Fairs per year and provides high touch, personalized career advisory services to job seekers face-to-face and through various communication media.

Ms. Hannah has over thirty-five years of experience as a Human Resources professional in various positions with the Department of Army, Department of Navy, Department of Commerce and NASA. She received her bachelor's degree in business administration in management from Saint Leo University while at the same time managing a Transportation/Logistics Intern Program for the Department of Army at Fort Eustis, VA. Ms. Hannah is the recipient of numerous awards, including: Department of Army Achievement Medal for Civilian Service, Special Act Awards for developing the Hiring Heroes Program and the DoD Student Training and Academic Recruitment (STAR) Program and several Student Career Experience Programs for the DoD and Army. She also received the Honorable Order of Saint Christopher medal for outstanding promotion and support of the Army Transportation Corps.



**Ms. Mellissa K. Hearn**  
**Black/African American – Special Emphasis Program Manager**  
**and Inventory Management Specialist, Headquarters, Joint**  
**Munitions Command**  
**Rock Island, IL**

Ms. Mellissa Hearn is a dedicated Department of Defense (DoD) professional having over 13 years of experience with Headquarters Joint Munitions Command (HQ, JMC) in Rock Island, Illinois. She has recently been selected as the Black/African American, Special Emphasis Program Manager (SEPM) as collateral duty. She produces budgets, controls distribution and management of Class V Ammunition worth more than 20 billion dollars for the Department of the Army as an Inventory Manager, Subject Matter Expert (SME) for 40MM, 105MM, and 120MM Ammunition. She assisted with development and implementation of two Enterprise Resource Program's (ERP), PRODSTAT Refresh and Logistics Modernization Program (LMP). She has achieved certification as Lean Six Sigma Greenbelt and Level III Acquisition Life Cycle Logistics in 2008. Her career began as a Federal

Career Internship Program (FCIP) intern Inventory Management Specialist for Close Combat Ammunition in 2004. Her temporary duty assignments include: a one-year detail as an Issue Support Specialist in the Enterprise Integration Directorate at HQ, JMC in 2011. She has managed three other ammunition commodities (Hydra Rockets, Cartridge Actuated Devices/Propellant Actuated Devices (CAD/PAD's), and Demolition) at the headquarters since the start of her career.

Ms. Hearn also facilitates courses for new JMC employees in the Achieving Maximum Professional Employee Development (AMPED) program. Her community involvement includes being a member of the local Metropolitan Youth Program Parent/Fundraiser Committee, the Quad Cities Empowerment Network, and Blacks in Government "BIG". Ms. Hearn earned a master's degree in business administration and a bachelor's degree in business management with a minor in computer information systems from St. Ambrose University in Davenport, IA. She also holds an associate's degree in microcomputer information technology from Scott Community College in Bettendorf, IA.



**Mr. Shannon Jackson**  
**Acting Deputy Director**  
**Mentor-Protégé' Program/Outreach/Socioeconomic Programs**  
**Office of Small Business Program**  
**Alexandria, VA**

Mr. Shannon Jackson leads and manages DoD OSBP's Mentor-Protégé Program, Congressional Affairs projects, and Small Business Outreach programs. Prior to assuming this role, he served as the Senior Advisor to the OSBP Director.

Mr. Jackson is a retired Lieutenant Colonel of the U.S. Army where he served for 23 years. He served in numerous acquisition positions during his time in the military, including as the Deputy Program Manager for the U.S. Army Rapid Equipping Force; a Foreign Military Sales Acquisition Officer/Program Manager for a Major Weapon System, Ammunition and Service for the Government of Iraq; and the Department of the Army System Coordinator (DASC) within the office of the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquisition Logistics and Technology directly managing the Joint Air to Ground Missile (JAGM) and the Hellfire Missile System.

Mr. Jackson holds a bachelor's degree in history from Virginia State University, a master's degree in business administration from Nichols College and a master's degree in procurement and acquisition from Webster University. Mr. Jackson is a Defense Acquisition Workforce Improvement Act (DAWIA) Level 3 certified Program Manager and a Level 2 Contracting Professional.



**Dr. Shaik Jeelani**  
**Vice President**  
**Research and Sponsored Programs and Graduate Dean**  
**Tuskegee University**  
**Tuskegee, AL**

Dr. Shaik Jeelani serves as the Vice President for Research and Sponsored Programs and Graduate Dean at Tuskegee University. Dr. Jeelani received the B.E. degree from Osmania University, India, the M.S. and the Ph.D. degrees in Mechanical Engineering from North Carolina State University in 1971 and 1974, respectively. He is a registered Professional Engineer in the State of Alabama. He joined Tuskegee University as an Assistant Professor of Mechanical Engineering in 1974. He served in the College of Engineering from 1977 to 1996 as a faculty member, Assistant Dean, Associate Dean and Interim Dean.

As a professor and administrator in the College of Engineering, Dr. Jeelani developed robust recruitment and retention programs that enabled the college maintain high enrolment and produce graduates of highest caliber. He initiated a research program in Materials Science and Engineering, which resulted in the establishment of the Materials Research Laboratory (MRL). The MRL was later transformed to the Center for Advance Materials (T-CAM), which still functions as the largest multidisciplinary research, education and outreach center at Tuskegee University. Dr. Jeelani raised more than \$50 million for research at T-CAM during last 30 years. Dr. Jeelani has authored/co-authored more than 700 publications including more than 300 papers in refereed journals and more than 400 technical presentations at national and international conferences. He has also co-authored several book chapters, in the field of Materials science and Engineering, with his colleagues.

In 1996, Dr. Jeelani was appointed as Tuskegee University's first Vice President for Research and Sponsored Programs with a charge to facilitate the development and implementation of sponsored research and other programs that receive external support. He also has the responsibility of establishing and implementing policies governing the conduct and accountability for all research and other sponsored activities and ensuring that all sponsored research projects comply with the local and federal guidelines. During Dr. Jeelani's tenure as the Vice President, both the annual funding for research and sponsored programs and the number of faculty submitting proposals to federal agencies and foundations have more than doubled. Dr. Jeelani spearheaded the development and the implementation of Tuskegee University's first Ph.D. program in Materials Science and Engineering (MSE), which was started in 1998. Tuskegee University is now recognized as the largest producer of African American PhDs in MSE. In 2011 the Board of Trustees of Tuskegee University approved the establishment of the Department of MSE in the College of Engineering. Dr. Jeelani serves as the founding chair of this department, which houses both the Ph.D. and the newly approved master's programs in MSE. Dr. Jeelani holds membership in several professional organizations and serves on several national boards. Recently, the American Society for Mechanical Engineers (ASME) elected him as a fellow, which is the highest honor the ASME bestows on its selected members.



**Ms. Tamara L. Moland**  
**Director**  
**Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO)**  
**Joint Munitions Command (JMC)**  
**Rock Island, IL**

Ms. Tamara L. Moland serves as the Director of the Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) Office at the Joint Munitions Command, headquartered at the Rock Island Arsenal in Rock Island, Illinois. She has worked in the Civilian Service Career Program (CP-28) for over 13 years and continues as an agent of change in every assigned organization. Ms. Moland is responsible for executing EEO training, Anti- Harassment Policy, Affirmative Employment (A/E)/ Special Emphasis Programs (SEP), Complaint Processing, Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR), Reasonable Accommodation (R/A), and EEO Compliance. Ms. Moland manages 2-employees to include 6-collateral duty Special Emphasis Program Managers with a budget of \$92K. JMC EEO office supports five Depots/Arsenals, along with 9 government contracted offices (GOCO's-which have separate budgets). Ms. Moland serves as the principal advisor to the commander and senior officials. She is an integral member of JMC's Human Capital Strategic Plan collaborating with G-1(Human Resources) to develop, implement and manage initiatives to increase and sustain an inclusive total workforce at JMC.

Previously, Ms. Moland served as the Director of the Army and Air Force Equal Employment Opportunity/Equal Opportunity located at Joint Base Lewis-McChord (JBLM), WA in a Director's role supporting more than 20,000 army civilian, military, retirees, veterans and families with a budget of \$103K. While at JBLM, Ms. Moland's proven track record in offering ADR during the informal/formal complaint processing led her team to a cost reduction savings in the amount of \$450K for reporting period October 1, 2016-September 30, 2017.

Ms. Moland's education includes studies in business administration at Willamette University in Salem, OR. Her awards and training include: Exceptional Achievement Medal for Civilian Service, Basic Mediation and Mediation/ Facilitation certification training; Flippen, FLIPSIDE + Certification program designed for Leadership in Coaching and Development of high functioning Employees and Teams; Department of Army Leadership and Development Program; Intercultural Workplace Mediation Training; and Advance Workplace Mediation Training.



**Ms. Sharon R. Morrow**  
**Assistant to the Director**  
**Army Office of Small Business Programs (OSBP)**  
**Mentor-Protégé Program Manager**  
**Liaison for Small Business Innovative Research (SBIR) and Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR)**  
**Workforce Development**  
**Alexandria, VA**

Ms. Sharon Morrow serves as the Assistant to the Director for the Department of the Army Office of Small Business Programs (OSBP), where she is responsible for workforce development for Army's Small Business Professional and

Mentor-Protégé Program. She also serves as the Small Business Liaison for the Small Business Innovative Research (SBIR) and Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) programs. Ms. Morrow's federal career began as a Junior Fellow at Fleet Material Support Office (FMSO), Mechanicsburg, PA, where she wrote computer programs for the Inventory Control Points (ICPs) for the Naval Supply System.

After graduation from Pennsylvania State University (PSU), she served as a supply officer in the U.S. Navy and Naval Reserves. Her military career provided an understanding of a high operational tempo (OPTEMPO) and what it is like to be at the receiving end of a long supply chain for supplies and services. She accepted a position as a contract specialist at the USACE Los Angeles District, where she acquired Military Construction (MILCON), civil works and Architectural-Engineering (A-E) services. Other assignments include USACE Charleston District, where she also acquired services; Mission and Installation Contracting Command (MICC) at Fort Eustis, where she served as a contracting officer with unlimited warrant authority acquiring complex, enterprise contracts for services for Installation Management Command (IMCOM) and Army Training and Doctrine Command (TRADOC).



**Mr. Joseph “Joe” Morici**  
**Contractor Support**  
**Office of the Under Secretary of Defense (Research & Engineering)**  
**(USD(R&E))**  
**SMART Program Office**  
**Arlington, VA**

Mr. Joseph Morici started supporting the Science, Mathematics and Research for Transformation (SMART) Scholarship-for-Service Program Office under USD(R&E) in April 2017 at the Pentagon in Arlington, VA. In this position, he assists the program manager and deputy program manager with overall program administration and policy recommendation/development. His previous experience supporting the Office of the Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army (Research & Technology) (DASA(R&T)) as the Army Liaison for SMART gave him a firm understanding of the program and its mission necessary for his new role. Mr. Morici's career with the Department of Defense began in 2006 as a soldier in the U.S. Army assigned to an Aeromedical Evacuation (MEDEVAC) Company which he served as the Non-Commissioned Officer in Charge (NCOIC) of Aviation Operations. In 2010, Mr. Morici joined the Army's civilian workforce with the Division of Military and Naval Affairs (DMNA) continuing his work in Aviation Operations before making his decision to go into the private sector in 2014.



**Ms. Jacqueline Ray-Morris**  
**EEO Manager**  
**Minority College Outreach Programs**  
**National Guard Bureau**  
**Arlington, VA**

Ms. Jacqueline Ray-Morris is a recognized authority in the field of Leadership Development and Multiculturalism in the workplace. She currently serves as the EEO Manager for Minority College Outreach and Engagement Programs for the National Guard Bureau and as a consultant, motivational speaker and trainer to several organizations in the areas of workforce issues, diversity, and supervisory and management development. With more than 30 years of experience in the training and development field with proven successes, she is re-searching the impact of personalities on learning styles, generational differences in the workplace and career development. Jacqueline's work has been cited in numerous publications while having been a leading advocate for increasing the general awareness of the impact of leadership styles and cultural differences in organizational climates.

Ms. Ray-Morris holds an A.A. in secondary education from Gloucester County College, in New Jersey, and a B.S. in secondary education from Hampton University (Institute) and is currently pursuing a graduate degree from the Harvard School of Education.

She served as the Educational Training Specialist for a nationally recognized management and consulting training firm. Her duties were to design and deliver training programs that would prepare employees to "advance in their careers" and to prepare them for management positions if they so desired. "Developing people is a passion I have," says Ray-Morris. An energetic, creative, speaker, consultant and training specialist, Jacqueline is sought after in the corporate, government, and non-profit arenas throughout the country delivering timely messages with IMPACT! With her powerful organizational and time management skills, she serves on several boards throughout the US.



**Mr. Enrico Serafini**  
**Founder and Managing Partner**  
**pExchange, LLC**  
**Arlington, VA**

Mr. Enrico Serafini is the Founder and Managing Partner of pExchange: a startup company dedicated to empowering organizations to share, discover and acquire knowledge via a data ecosystem predicated on a secure, cloud-based technology service as the centralized broker of enriched data. Prior to launching pExchange, he led and grew the Advanced Analytics group at Battelle and had full profit and loss responsibility for the Software Engineering eastern division which generated over \$12 million of revenue and \$18 million of sales annually. The primary customer was the U.S. federal government including public health organizations, the Department of Defense and the intelligence community. In an individual contributor role as a research leader, Mr. Serafini was

responsible for the ideation and creation of new processes and technological innovations that resulted in significant contractual wins and efficiency improvements.

His diverse experience spans both commercial and government sectors, including both non-profit and research organizations such as Bell Labs and Bellcore. The majority of his commercial experience has been in the telecommunications industry where he began his career exploring how to best apply new protocols to the medical industry when telemedicine was in its infancy. From this very technical beginning, Mr. Serafini grew professionally toward management roles of increasing responsibility and had the opportunity to work across the entire telecom spectrum from the back office of network operations all the way to the front office being responsible for the re-architecture and automation of sales and order management of a \$60+ billion company.

He is passionate about new technology and solutions. This enthusiasm is tempered by a relentless focus on value and execution resulting from years of practical experience in product and system development, large system integration, and operations. For the past several years, he has particularly focused on Cybersecurity, Cloud Computing and most importantly Big Data Analytics efforts.



**Mr. Anthony C. Smith, Sr.**  
**Director**  
**Department of Navy's (DoN) HBCU/MI Program**  
**Arlington, VA**

Mr. Smith is the Director for the Department of Navy's (DoN) HBCU/MI Program. In this capacity, Mr. Smith serves as the Senior Advisor to the Director of Research and Chief of Naval Research on matters relating to strengthening the research support and capabilities of HBCU/MIs. He is tasked with increasing the number of students (undergraduate and graduate) as well as faculty in applying for and pursuing internships, fellowships and research related projects for the Department of the Navy. Mr. Smith is responsible for the oversight and guidance of 13 Administering Offices (AO) within the Department of the Navy that are charged with conducting outreach programs with HBCU/MI.

Prior to his current assignment, Mr. Smith possesses over 15 years of numerous continually progressive assignments in the U.S. Navy including serving as the Science and Technology Director responsible for the developing and transitioning numerous Small Business Innovative Research (SBIR) and S&T projects totaling more than \$100M. He also served as the Director of Future Technology/Technical Director supporting the S&T Directorate within PEO SHIPS.

Mr. Smith is also a United States Naval Reservist. He was an Assistant Professor of Naval Science at Florida Agricultural & Mechanical University's (FAMU) Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps (NROTC) Unit. In this position he taught naval history, advanced courses in navigation; and, was the Academic Advisor for the freshman and junior midshipmen. In a collateral role, Mr. Smith served as the recruiter responsible awarding 4-year scholarships to qualified applicants throughout the U.S. Mr. Smith received his Bachelor of Science Degree in Biology from Texas Tech University in Lubbock, Texas. He has also attained a Defense Acquisition Workforce Improvement Act (DAWIA) Level III Certification in Science and Technology.