

Auburn University
Institute of African American and Black
Economic Development and Empowerment



Overview

The Presidential Task Force institute subcommittee recommends the **Auburn University Institute for African American and Black Economic Development and Empowerment(AU-IAABEDE)** to serve as an empowering space to promote scholarly research and academic excellence relative to scholarly research for people of African descent and the African diaspora in one or more of the following three areas:

- Economic Literacy
- Health Disparities
- Technological Advancements and Innovations

Vision

The proposed **Auburn University Institute for African American and Black Economic Development and Empowerment (AU-IAABEDE)** is a transformative, forward-thinking institute that understands the historical context based on legacy effects in the South, and advances and cultivates solution focused, cutting-edge research by identifying and addressing inequities that are prevalent in African American and Black communities.

Broader Impact

- Create workforce development opportunities for Black, African American and underserved communities, to the benefit of statewide commerce.
- Develop and disseminate a model for faculty collaborations and research endeavors both within the university as well as cross-institutional.
- Secure funding that builds new partnerships and enhances existing partnerships that emphasize workforce and economic development for Auburn University and statewide industry (e.g., corporate allies, alumni).
- Provide an infrastructure that leverages the work of scholars on promoting equity for underserved groups for funding opportunities (e. g. NIH, NSF, DoE)
- Enhance representation of faculty, students, and staff from diverse backgrounds and build a sense of belonging (e. g. respect, understanding, value and acceptance) throughout the Auburn University community and surrounding areas.

Goals aligned with AU Strategic Plan

- Goal 1 - Serve as an interdisciplinary hub for related research with a focus on applied research and outreach.
 - Through this collaborative approach, our goal will be to increase its research portfolio and apply its findings to benefit the citizens of Alabama, the nation and world. This goal addresses Auburn University's Strategic Plan's call for Transformative Research.
- Goal 2 – Recognize and elevate Auburn's collective related research and outreach.
 - This goal will further the mission of the institute and university. This priority addresses Auburn University's Strategic Plan's call for Exceptional and Engaged Faculty and Staff.

Institute Organizational Structure

Director

- Should be well versed in diversity, equity and inclusion with extensive research experience in academia (particularly as it relates to securing external funding).
- Should be uniquely collaborative, well networked, able to encourage critical conversations and is a skilled communicator
- Must be a connector and able to leverage all interested parties and above all else, committed to Auburn University's vision to lead and shape the future of higher education.
- The task force would strongly recommend an external search for this position of director.

Administrative Board

- Comprised of the deans, heads, and chairs from the participating colleges and schools, to which the director will report.
- Reports directly to the Provost.

Resources and Facilities

- Personnel – 1 full-time director, 1 half-time assistant director, 2 full-time administrative staff members, graduate student fellows. The director would not serve in dual roles as a faculty member and director to ensure time allocation would be dedicated to the establishment and sustainability of the institute.
- Equipment – technology, Wi-Fi, Hybrid programming (in person & virtual).
- Facilities – building or separate space that would include a meeting space, offices, exhibition area, library and archives, designated classroom and conference spaces.

Next Steps

- Development of an intensive business plan to support the institute of this scope, it is requested that the university provide seed funding for a period of a minimum of five years with supplemental support for up to 10 years. This would allow the leadership of the institute to develop a sustainable funding model and have the expectation of deliverables from an agreed upon strategic plan.
- Potential funding sources might be tied to FTE (majors); fellowships; summer camps; and grants related to research. Additionally, there are state and federal grants that support the institute's related activities.

Presidential Task Force Institute Subcommittee

- Katrina Akande, Ph.D.
- Molly Boudreaux
- Michael Brown, Ph.D.
- Taffye Benson Clayton, Ph.D.
- Kevin Coonrod, JD
- Norman Godwin, Ph.D.
- Lady Frances Hamilton
- Robin Jaffe
- Kimberly Mulligan-Guy, Ph.D.
- Jared Russell, Ph.D.
- Melody Russell, Ph.D./ (subcommittee chair)
- Jailin Sanders
- Joellen Sefton, Ph.D.
- Bruce Smith, VMD, Ph.D.
- Giovanna Summerfield, Ph.D.
- Gretel Thornton
- Jackson Thomas
- Cori Akins

Thank you!

Resources and Citations

<http://civilrights.sc.edu/>

<https://www.gonzaga.edu/school-of-law/clinic-centers/center-for-civil-human-rights/about>

<https://law.unc.edu/academics/centers-and-programs/center-for-civil-rights/>