



# 2025 – 2030 STRATEGIC PLAN

## The Department of Urban & Regional Planning (DURP)



MISSISSIPPI'S ONLY  
**URBAN PLANNING  
PROGRAM**

Jackson State University | 101 Capitol Street | Downtown Jackson Campus

**CONCENTRATIONS:**  
Community Development and Housing  
Environment and Land Use  
Urban Design

*"Improving the Quality of Life"*

**Bernece Herbert, PhD., DURP Chair**  
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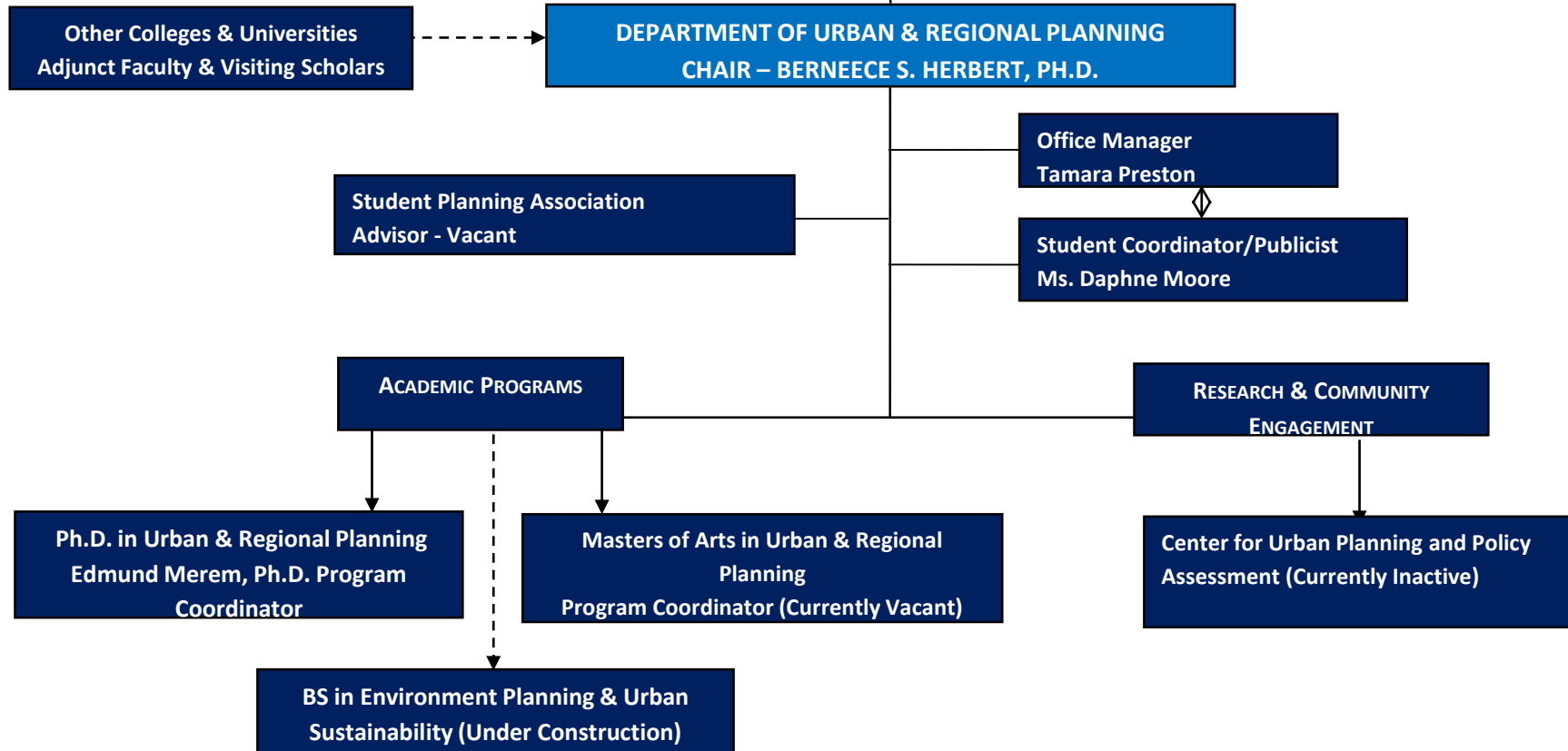
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JSU\_DURP ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



# Jackson State University

Jackson State University (JSU), a Historically Black University, is the fourth largest state-supported institution in Mississippi.

Located in Jackson, Mississippi, Jackson State University is designated as Mississippi's only urban university. Jackson State University is designated as a "high research activity" University by the Carnegie Foundation.

The University is accredited by the Commission of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) to award bachelor's, master's, education specialist, Doctor of Education, and Doctor of Philosophy degrees.

As a higher education institution, Jackson State University continues to enhance the state, nation, and the world through comprehensive initiatives in education, community and economic development, healthcare, innovative research, and technology



## URBAN PLANNING



1. Layout
2. Fulfilling needs



The design & organisation of Urban spaces & Infrastructure

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# Urban & Regional Planning @ JSU

Jackson State University's Department of Urban and Regional Planning offers the only Planning degree programs in the state of Mississippi. The degree programs began in the academic year 1998-1999. Prior to this, a master's program was located at the University of Mississippi in Oxford, Mississippi from 1968 through 1986. Then, for more than a decade, Mississippi had no university where professionals interested in urban planning could obtain a degree. The Planning Accreditation Board (PAB) initially accredited the Master of Arts program in Urban and Regional Planning in 2010.

The Master of Arts in Urban and Regional Planning Degree began in academic year 1998-1999 as the culmination of long-term discussions between Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning and stakeholders of Jackson State University. The impetus for the Program evolved from the desire to establish a regionally recognized planning program, which became the only planning program in the state.

The Program grew out of the settlement of a decade-long suit that challenged funding disparities between the State's public majority institutions and Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs). The settlement created new programs with better funding. Jackson State University's Urban and Regional Planning Program was one of the settlement's beneficiaries.



## URBAN PLANNING



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# MISSION STATEMENT, VISION, AND CORE VALUES



## Mission Statement

The mission of Jackson State University, an HBCU and comprehensive urban research university, is to provide quality teaching, research and service at the baccalaureate, master's, specialist, and doctoral levels to diverse populations of students and communities using various modalities to ensure that they are technologically advanced, ethical, global leaders who think critically and can address societal problems and compete effectively.

## Vision Statement

Building on its historic mission of empowering diverse students to become leaders, Jackson State University will become recognized as a challenging, yet nurturing, state-of-the-art, technologically-infused intellectual community. Students and faculty will engage in creative research, participate in interdisciplinary and multi-institutional/organizational collaborative learning teams and serve the global community.

## Statement of Core Values

Jackson State University is committed to:

- **Tradition** – The University believes that its role as a historically black university inspires and exemplifies positive societal change.
- **Accountability** – The University believes in the principled exercise of leadership and the sanctity of the public trust.
- **Learning** – The University believes in an experimentally enhanced learning environment where teaching, research, and service are integrated and mutually reinforcing.
- **Nurturing** – The University is committed to creating a community, which affirms and welcomes persons from diverse backgrounds and experiences and supports the realization of their potential.
- **Service** – The University responds to the needs of society to the best of its ability and expects its graduates to do likewise.
- **Responsibility** – The University believes in and accepts its duty to enhance each generation's capacity to improve the human condition.

## GOAL 1 STUDENT SUCCESS

Jackson State University will become one of the most student-centered universities in the country by implementing relevant and appropriate student success strategies, developing students holistically and ensuring student Return on Investment (ROI).

## GOAL 2 ACADEMIC PROMINENCE

Jackson State University will become one of the most respected and prominent academic institutions in the country by becoming a Top 10 U.S. News & World Report ranked HBCU, providing quality teaching using various modalities to develop along with technologically-advanced, ethical, and global leaders.

## GOAL 3 Research Excellence

Jackson State University will raise the level of research prominence by maintaining our "high research activity" status, increasing our research capabilities, impacting innovation and economic development, and providing opportunities for faculty and students to engage in collaborative research.

# The Department of Urban & Regional Planning



## Mission Statement



The mission of the Department of Urban and Regional Planning (DURP) in support of JSU’s “Elevate” Strategic Plan is to:

- ✓ educate and train students from diverse academic, social, economic, ethnic and geographic backgrounds to pursue careers in fields such as community development and housing, environment and land use, and urban design;
- ✓ provide students with the skills and knowledge to lead and contribute to the improvement of urban and regional environments in a diverse and multicultural society;
- ✓ develop responsible leaders who are capable and willing to seek solutions to human, social and technological problems, with special emphasis on those relevant to the metropolitan and urban areas of the state and the nation; and
- ✓ increase the number of members from under-represented groups in the professional ranks.

DURP’s mission supports that of JSU’s which is to provide quality teaching, research and service at the baccalaureate, master’s, specialist, and doctoral levels to diverse populations of students and communities using various modalities to ensure that they are technologically advanced, ethical, global leaders who think critically and can address societal problems and compete effectively.

# The Department of Urban & Regional Planning

## Vision

We envision a premier, student-centered program that will diversify the field of Planning with highly knowledgeable, skilled, competent and innovative thinkers and leaders who can significantly contribute to society on the local, national and international levels.

DURP's vision fosters engagement, excitement and empowerment as we endeavor to produce graduates who will utilize and leverage their knowledge and skills to build communities that are healthy, equitable, inclusive, resilient, and sustainable.

JSU's vision is, building on its historic mission of empowering diverse students to become leaders, Jackson State University will become recognized as a challenging, yet nurturing, state-of-the-art, technologically-infused intellectual community. Students and faculty will engage in creative research, participate in interdisciplinary and multi-institutional/organizational collaborative learning teams and serve the global community.



# The Department of Urban & Regional Planning

The Program's core values include:

- 1) **Quality:** We prioritize high standards in all aspects of our work.
- 2) **Inclusiveness:** We foster an environment where all feel valued, respected, and included.
- 3) **Engagement and Empowerment:** We believe in providing the tools and skills for all to ownership of their work and make collective impactful decisions.
- 4) **Advocacy:** We are committed to justice, equality, and positive change.
- 5) **Integrity and Ethics:** We are committed to always being honest, and responsible and transparent.
- 6) **Creativity:** We are committed to imaginative and innovative approaches to understand and improve our world.



## Accreditation

- DURP's Master of Urban & Regional Planning (MURP) is nationally accredited by the Planning Accreditation Board.
- DURP is 1 of only 76 Universities at 80 North American with an accredited Masters Degree Program in Planning.





## Why Pursue a Graduate Degree in Urban & Regional Planning at JSU?

### You will be able to:

- **Shape the Future:** Influence how people live, work, and interact.
- **Cutting-Edge Concepts:** Engage with sustainable development, smart cities, and equitable growth.
- **Dynamic Field:** Blend creativity with analytical skills to solve complex urban issues.

### Skills You Will Gain

- **Analytical Rigor:** Conduct detailed analyses to inform planning decisions.
- **Creative Solutions:** Design innovative and practical solutions for urban issues.
- **Project Management:** Manage planning projects from conception to implementation.
- **Communication:** Effectively convey ideas to stakeholders and the community.

### What Makes Our Program Unique?

- **Experienced Faculty:** Learn from experts in the field.
- **Hands-on Experience:** Engage in real-world projects and internships.
- **Research Opportunities:** Contribute to cutting-edge research in urban planning.
- **Community Impact:** Apply your knowledge to make a tangible difference in local communities.



## Why Pursue a Graduate Degree in Urban & Regional Planning at JSU?

### Shape the Future of Urban Living

As a student in our program, you'll have the opportunity to influence how people live, work, and interact in the cities of tomorrow. You'll engage with cutting-edge concepts like sustainable development, smart cities, and equitable growth, all while tackling complex urban issues that demand creative and analytical solutions.

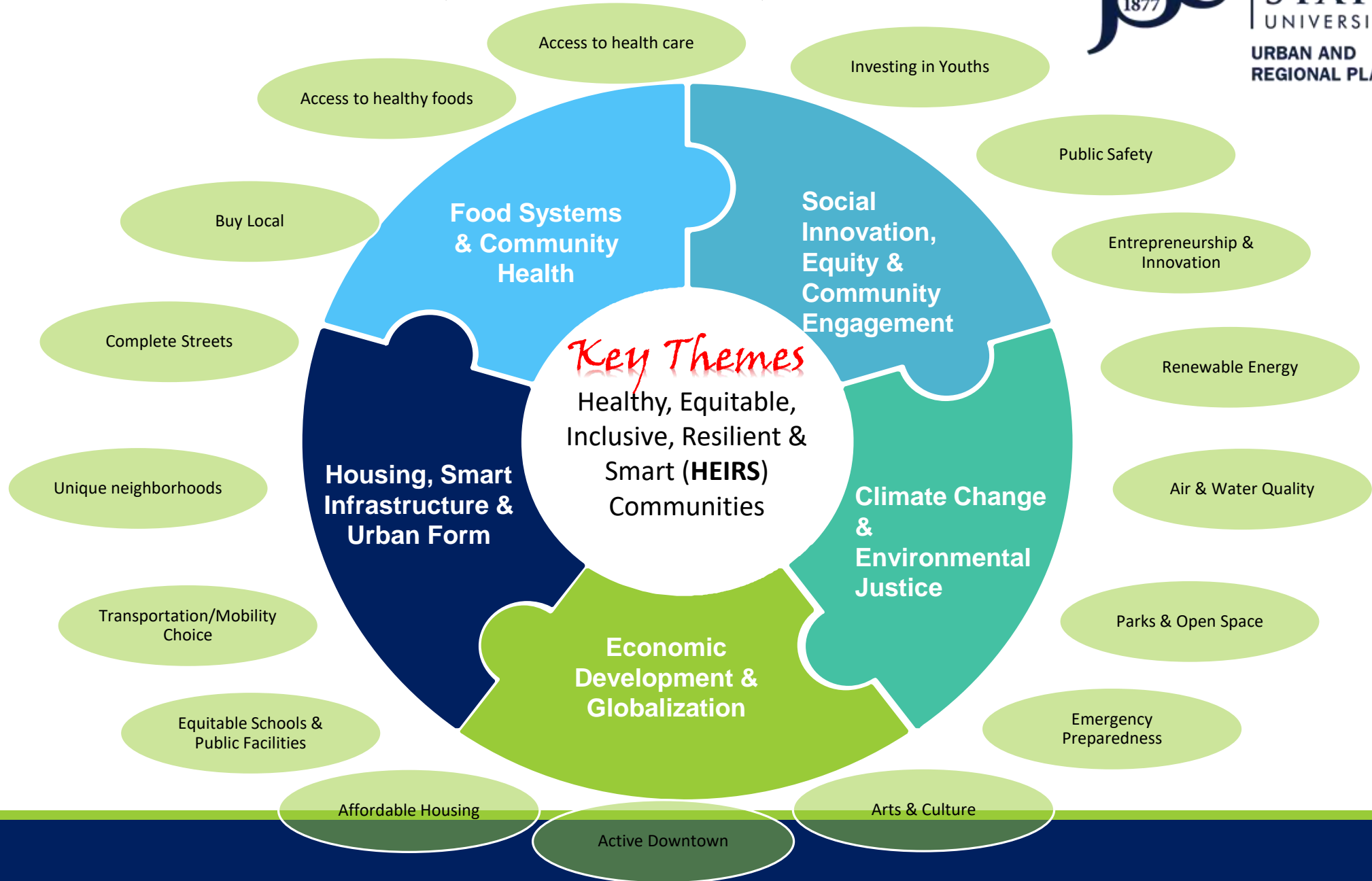
### Skills You'll Develop

- ✓ Creative Problem-Solving: Design innovative, practical solutions for diverse urban challenges.
- ✓ Plan Making: Understand the plan making process and how to engage stakeholders.
- ✓ Analytical Rigor: Conduct in-depth analyses to guide planning decisions and strategies.
- ✓ Effective Communication: Convey ideas clearly to a variety of stakeholders, from local communities to government officials.

### What Sets Our Program Apart?

- ✓ Experienced Faculty: Learn from leading experts in urban planning and related fields.
- ✓ Hands-on Learning: Gain practical experience through real-world projects and internships.
- ✓ Research Opportunities: Contribute to pioneering research that shapes the future of urban development.
- ✓ Community Impact: Apply your skills to create meaningful, positive change in local communities.

# The Department of Urban & Regional Planning



# Full-time Faculty & Areas of Expertise/Interest



**Berneece S. Herbert, Ph.D.**  
**Associate Professor & Chair**

[Berneece.Herbert@jsums.edu](mailto:Berneece.Herbert@jsums.edu)

- Urban Structure & Sustainability
- Food Security & Under-resourced Communities
- Climate Change & Energy Justice



**Edmund Merem, Ph.D.**  
**Professor**

[edmund.c.merem@jsums.edu](mailto:edmund.c.merem@jsums.edu)

- Planning Ethics
- Global Cities & International Development
- Climate Change, Environment & Land Use



**Joan M. Wesley, Ph.D.**  
**Associate Professor (Retired)**

[joan.m.wesley@jsums.edu](mailto:joan.m.wesley@jsums.edu)

- Community Development & Housing
- Stakeholder Participation & Community Engagement
- Social Equity & Environmental Justice



**Firas Al-Douri, Ph.D.**  
**Associate Professor**

[firas.a.aldouri@jsums.edu](mailto:firas.a.aldouri@jsums.edu)

- Urban Design Theory & practice
- Contemporary & Sustainable Urbanism
- Information Technology in Urban Design



**Talya Thomas, Ph.D.**  
**Associate Professor**

[talya.d.thomas@jsums.edu](mailto:talya.d.thomas@jsums.edu)

- Community Development & Housing
- Environmental & Public Policy
- Food Security



**Moe Chowdhury, Ph.D., AICP**  
**Visiting Assistant Professor**

[moe.n.chowdhury@jsums.edu](mailto:moe.n.chowdhury@jsums.edu)

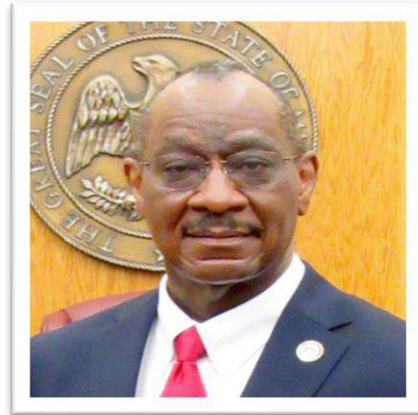
- Urban Studies
- Transportation Planning
- Human Geography

# Adjunct Faculty & Staff



**Joan Blanton, PhD**

- Urban Design
- Quantitative Analysis



**Attorney Terry Wallace**

- Legal Basis of Planning



**Daphne Foster Hill, PhD**

- Regional Planning
- History & Theory



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Right: Ms. Daphne Moore,  
Student Development  
Coordinator  
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601-979-8725

# *The Department of Urban & Regional Planning*



## **DURP Programs**

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### **Master of Arts in Urban & Regional Planning**

The Master's in Urban and Regional Planning at Jackson State University is a student-centric program designed to empower students to actively engage with and contribute to identifying communities' needs and proposing innovative solutions while fostering a positive personalized learning experience. The program goals are to:

1. Provide students opportunities to participate in community-based projects, internships, and planning initiatives that address local and regional issues.
2. Educate and train students to pursue exciting careers in fields such as community development and housing, environment and land use, and urban design
3. Provide students with the skills and knowledge to lead and contribute to improving urban and regional environments.

### **MA Student Learning Outcomes**

- I. Students will apply quantitative and qualitative skills to design plans and create strategies for implementation.
- II. Students will demonstrate the ability to lead and productively participate in groups in diverse settings.
- III. Students will demonstrate an understanding of the role of Planning when solving problems and making decisions

# The Department of Urban & Regional Planning

## DURP Programs

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### Master of Arts in Urban & Regional Planning

#### PAB Accredited – 49 credit hours

- Core Courses: 16 hrs.
  - Concentration Courses: 15 hrs.
  - Planning Electives: 9 hrs.
  - Thesis/Non-Thesis Electives: 6 hrs.
  - Internship: 3 hrs.
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- Thesis — (6 hours) The candidate electing to write a thesis will select an area of interest within his major field. The thesis will be directed by the student's major advisor, with the approval of the student's thesis committee. There is a two (2) year limit on completing the thesis.
  - Non-thesis Electives (Additional Coursework)—(6 hours) The student, in consultation with advisor will select two additional courses to extend, expand or supplement their area of concentration.

### DURP Concentration Areas:

- ✚ Community Development & Housing:
- ✚ Environment & Land Use
- ✚ Urban Design



# *The Department of Urban & Regional Planning*



## **DURP Programs**

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### **Doctoral Program**

The doctoral program in Urban and Regional Planning emphasizes a holistic approach to urban and regional planning, prioritizing students' needs and perspectives and active participation, integrating theoretical knowledge with practical application, focusing on sustainable development, social equity, and collaborative problem-solving. The program goals are to:

1. Train graduates to develop and implement strategies and policies to improve the quality of life for residents while balancing economic, social, and environmental considerations through creating well-organized, functional, and resilient spaces that support the diverse needs of communities.
2. Provide a quality educational experience, built upon the pillars of success - student-centeredness, teamwork, and the pursuit of excellence, that emphasizes the diversity and complexity of today's world.
3. Develop responsible leaders who are capable and willing to seek solutions to human, social and technological problems, with special emphasis on those relevant to the metropolitan and urban areas of developed and developing countries.

### **PhD Program Student Learning Outcomes**

- I. Urban & Regional Planning doctoral students will be able to critically apply knowledge of Planning movements and theories to generate new ideas to address fundamental Planning problems.
- II. Urban & Regional Planning doctoral students will be able to apply advanced quantitative and qualitative analysis to address current Planning problems and make decisions.
- III. Urban & Regional Planning doctoral students will be able to apply the Planning functions of communities and institutions and the impact of their research on society.



# The Department of Urban & Regional Planning

## DURP Programs

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### Doctor of Philosophy in Urban & Regional Planning

51 credit hours (minimum)

- Core Courses: 15 hrs.
- Concentration Courses: 12 hrs.
- Electives in Planning: 9 hrs.
- Dissertation: 12 hrs.

### DURP Concentration Areas:

- ✚ Community Development & Housing
- ✚ Environment & Land Use
- ✚ Urban Design

### Core Areas of Student Research

- **Sustainable Development:** Learn how to create eco-friendly and resilient communities.
- **Smart Cities:** Explore innovative technologies and their impact on urban living.
- **Equitable Growth:** Address social justice and ensure inclusive development.
- **Housing & Transportation:** Assessing solutions for effective and accessible infrastructure.
- **Public Spaces:** Evaluating the role vibrant, functional, and community-oriented public areas.
- **Environment & Climate:** Addressing issues of biodiversity, waste generation, air emissions, water resources and flooding, public health & heat



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**Goal 1. Further strengthen the development of a highly knowledgeable community that supports practice and leadership in the field of Planning.**

**Goal 2. Attract, retain and graduate a diverse cadre of students who are efficiently prepared to meaningfully contribute to the Planning profession, and compete in the global marketplace.**

**Goal 3. Evaluate and enhance program curricula to effectively prepare graduates to appropriately respond to evolving planning and development issues and help build sustainable and resilient spaces and communities.**

**Goal 4. Continue to pursue research and grant/contract opportunities that support the DURP mission as well as expertise of faculty.**

**Goal 5. Increase public service and civic engagement activities of faculty and students to promote civic mindedness for social justice and community empowerment.**

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## Departmental Goals

**GOAL 1. FURTHER STRENGTHEN THE DEVELOPMENT OF A HIGHLY KNOWLEDGEABLE ACADEMIC COMMUNITY THAT SUPPORTS PRACTICE AND LEADERSHIP IN THE FIELD OF PLANNING.**

***Objective 1A: Attract and retain effective and visionary administrative leadership within DURP.***

- Strategy 1A (ii): Re-appoint and seek training for Program Coordinators to oversee academic programs

***Objective 1B: Attract and retain quality faculty committed to team building, the pursuit of excellence and innovation in Urban and Regional Planning.***

- Strategy 1B (i): Seek regular professional development/training for faculty.
- Strategy 1B (ii): Strengthen the pool of adjuncts that can support current and future Planning degree and certificate programs.

***Objective 1C: Explore and promote collaborations to integrate courses into inclusive progressive planning practices.***

- Strategy 1C (i): Engage local metro area planning and development professionals.
- Strategy 1C (ii): Core courses modified to embrace linkage to metro area, rural and global planning and development issues.
- Strategy 1C (iii): Encourage faculty to collaborate with faculty in CSET and other colleges.

**GOAL 2. ATTRACT, RETAIN AND GRADUATE A DIVERSE CADRE OF STUDENTS WHO ARE EFFICIENTLY PREPARED TO MEANINGFULLY CONTRIBUTE TO THE PLANNING PROFESSION, AND COMPETE IN THE GLOBAL MARKETPLACE.**

***Objective 2A: Expand program enrollment and build upon the programs' excellence and academic reputation***

- *Strategy 2A (i): Create a robust recruitment strategy.*
- *Strategy 2A (ii): Promote the program showcasing alumni, student and faculty success stories via a robust web/social media presence*
- *Strategy 2A (ii): Develop hybrid undergraduate interdisciplinary degree as a feeder for the master's program.*

***Objective 2B: Provide quality advising for students as they matriculate through the program and assist students with post-graduate placement.***

- *Strategy 2B (i): Program Coordinators and Advisors identified.*
- *Strategy 2B (ii): All faculty serve in student advisement on program curriculum, specializations and concentrations, research interests, academic status, and graduation requirements.*
- *Strategy 2B (iii): Promote a campus climate where everyone feels welcome, supported, included, and valued.*

***Objective 2C: Support a strong student association***

- *Strategy 2C (i): Continue to annually appoint a faculty member as the advisor to the Student Planning Association (SPA) and involve SPA in developing DURP work program*
- *Strategy 2C (ii): Institutionalize a structured student-alumni network with program alumni to link students to opportunities for mentorship and practical experience.*

**GOAL 3. EVALUATE AND ENHANCE PROGRAM CURRICULA TO EFFECTIVELY PREPARE GRADUATES TO APPROPRIATELY RESPOND TO EVOLVING PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT ISSUES AND HELP BUILD SUSTAINABLE AND RESILIENT SPACES AND COMMUNITIES.**

***Objective 3A: Promote higher standards of teaching and learning, encourage intellectual curiosity and increase collaborations.***

- *Strategy 3A (i): Regularly engage faculty in course and program assessment and reviewing student learning outcomes*
- *Encourage more students to consider taking the AICP.*
- *Strategy 3A (ii): Seek new partnerships and collaborations for research, including student research and presentation*
- *Strategy 3A(iii): Promote excellence, teamwork and student centeredness*

***Objective 3B: Revise and update curriculum and include new concentrations and certificate programs.***

- *Strategy 3B (i): Prepare list of courses as electives across the university, especially in the College of Science, Engineering & Technology that would add to student knowledge*
- *Strategy 3 B (ii): Enlarge opportunities for student-teacher engagement in current special topics*
- *Strategy 3B (iii): Develop a written strategy to begin offering Urban planning (Studies) courses at community colleges to serve as a feeder for the Master's program.*
- *Strategy 3B (iv): Ensure continued student and SPA representation on DURP curriculum committee and other meetings relevant to student curricular matters and interests.*
- *Strategy 3B (v): Strengthen the establishment of formal and informal relationships with planning and development organizations to involve professionals in general coursework activities*

**GOAL 4. CONTINUE TO PURSUE RESEARCH AND LARGE GRANT/CONTRACT OPPORTUNITIES THAT SUPPORT THE DURP MISSION AS WELL AS EXPERTISE OF FACULTY.**

***Objective 4A: Streamline a process to identify and pursue grants, contracts, and research opportunities.***

- *Strategy 4A (i): Continue to administratively support faculty research, and grant and contract activities*
- *Strategy 4A (ii): Pursuing efforts through the Mississippi Urban Research Center (MURC) and other research units at the University.*

***Objective 4B: Engage faculty and students in collaborative and interactive activities.***

- *Strategy 4B (i): Have faculty to sign up for government grants and other types of opportunities and encourage faculty to apply for them in a collaborative fashion.*
- *Strategy 4B (ii): Encourage increased faculty involvement in joint research efforts in and outside of the DURP.*
- *Strategy 4B (iii): Establish a year-end special recognition for faculty who collaborate on publications, research, or grants with each other within the Program, with other faculty across the University, and/or with students in external programs, especially CSET.*
- *Strategy 4B (iv): Build one or more collaborations with national and international agencies and institutions to develop projects that address southeastern and global challenges and opportunities*

**GOAL 5. INCREASE PUBLIC SERVICE AND CIVIC ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES OF FACULTY AND STUDENTS TO PROMOTE A CULTURE OF CIVIC MINDEDNESS FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE AND COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT.**

***Objective 5A: Champion the needs of underserved and under resourced communities to facilitate neighborhood improvement throughout the Jackson Metro region***

- *Strategy 5A (i): Facilitate and actively participate in urban development projects, community outreach, and academic research.*

***Objective 5B: Solicit projects from the Jackson metropolitan area or other parts of Mississippi for course assignments, internships and studios***

- *Strategy 5B (i): Solicit projects for studio classes from public, non-profit and private agencies throughout the state.*
- *Strategy 5B (ii): Develop additional MOUs for student internship and hands-on opportunities.*
- *Strategy 5B (iii): Engage agencies e.g. the Black Conference of Mayors, USDA, DOE, HUD, MS-DOT and MDEQ for student job placement and faculty involvement*

***Objective 5C: Involve faculty and students in various activities of the APA MS Chapter.***

- *Strategy 5C (i): Work with the MS-APA to for outreach and applied research.*
- *Strategy 5C (ii): Ensure DURP's continued participation in MS-APA annual meetings & conferences.*
- *Strategy 5C (iii): Encourage students and faculty to volunteer in the activities of MS-APA.*
- *Strategy 5C (iv): Provide greater coverage of DURP activities involving faculty and students in these areas.*

**GOAL 5 CONT'D. INCREASE PUBLIC SERVICE AND CIVIC ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES OF FACULTY AND STUDENTS TO PROMOTE A CULTURE OF CIVIC MINDEDNESS FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE AND COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT.**

***Objective 5D: Work with local and state agencies in establishing internship and other opportunities for DURP and Urban Studies students.***

- *Strategy 5D (i): Create a roster of planning and planning related agencies where graduate and undergraduate students can receive relevant planning internship experience.*
- *Strategy 5D (ii): Expand the pool of agencies for student experiences and engagement.*
- *Strategy 5D (iii): Discuss with local area elected officials, planning and development agency managers, etc. about DURP facilitating community discussions.*

***Objective 5E: Facilitate “Chat & Chew” discussion series at least once during fall, spring and summer semesters where faculty, students, elected officials, planning and development agency officials/managers will be invited to make presentations.***

- *Strategy 5E (i): Host “Brown Bags” on relevant themes*
- *Strategy 5E (ii): Invite local elected officials, planning and development agency managers, and municipal officials as guest speakers*
- *Strategy 5E (iii): Disseminate information pertaining to these events*



# SWOT ANALYSIS

SWOT	Helpful	Harmful
<b>Internal</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Positive reputation in the external community</li> <li>• Positive experience with those who interact with the campus</li> <li>• Proactive partnerships with other universities, community and agencies</li> <li>• Faculty and staff support the campus mission</li> <li>• Faculty involvement with students</li> <li>• Student leadership programs</li> <li>• Learning communities developing to enhance learning and student-faculty interaction</li> <li>• Medium size campus with small class size</li> <li>• Facilities include new and well-maintained, attractive buildings and grounds</li> <li>• Dedicated and Expert faculty</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Department does not have its own budget</li> <li>• Low enrollment</li> <li>• No funds for recruitment activities</li> <li>• Distinguishing qualities and identity not well known</li> <li>• Fiscal uncertainty</li> <li>• Mis-Match between research expectation &amp; support</li> <li>• High and unequal workloads faculty &amp; staff</li> <li>• Lack of strong, pervasive presence in the external community</li> <li>• Limited resources for faculty and staff development</li> <li>• Highly competitive market for diverse faculty and staff</li> <li>• Reporting perceived as a ritual and meaningless</li> <li>• Lack of adequate support for young researchers and PhD students</li> <li>• Poor incentive structure for grant writing</li> </ul>
<b>External</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Partnerships in support of university initiatives</li> <li>• Expanded possibilities for the workforce</li> <li>• External community and university relationships</li> <li>• Increased value of higher education completion</li> <li>• Growing demand for graduates</li> <li>• Match between curricular &amp; societal interests</li> <li>• Increased interest in global initiatives</li> <li>• Technological advances</li> <li>• Partnership opportunities</li> <li>• Increased focus on higher education</li> <li>• increased interest in university connections</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Historical lack of knowledge about urban and regional planning</li> <li>• State budget crisis</li> <li>• Increase in reporting expected by government and society</li> <li>• Shift in focus on numerical achievement vs. qualitative achievement</li> <li>• Societal and student perception of education as solely a means to a job</li> <li>• Reporting perceived as a ritual and meaningless</li> <li>• Historical public perceptions/lack of knowledge about higher education.</li> <li>• Inadequate scholarships</li> </ul>

## **ANTICIPATED CHALLENGES & STRATEGIC ISSUES FOR DURP**

Recruitment to MURP Program is our biggest and continuing challenge. A national trend of declining enrollments in master's programs is occurring due to a combination of factors including rising tuition costs, growing student debt concerns, a strong post-pandemic job market making graduate degrees seem less necessary, and a perception that the value of a master's degree may not always justify its cost, leading many potential students to reconsider pursuing further education. Recent budget cuts and reductions in the public sector funding will greatly impact HBCU's. The majority of our student funding comes from faculty grants and contracts. Specific challenges for Urban Planning include i) an increase in bachelor's degrees in urban planning that offer decent job prospects and ii) accreditation mandated credit hours (typically 42-48 credits) that are higher than most master's programs (30 to 36 credits).

DURP is committed to a comprehensive, integrated strategic planning process linking our vision, priorities, people and physical space to promote accountability, data-driven decision-making and action, to motivate constituents, and shape and guide the department and its programs as it evolves over time and within the local and regional community. DURP has several strategic issues to address with student enrollment and the diversity of its student body as a top priority. After years of several rounds of restructuring, the Department is confident that, based on its unique history, relative autonomy, high level of respect for the program, faculty accomplishments, and resilience and commitment of current faculty, staff and alumni, it can reverse the trends in student enrollment and significantly grow the program in the coming academic years.

# STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS FOR DURP

- **Recruitment** into the Masters program is critical and the Department is committed to the development of a strategic recruitment strategy which would highlight the practical career applications of the degree, emphasizing the growing need for urban planners to address complex issues like housing affordability, climate change, and sustainable development, while targeting potential students with relevant undergraduate backgrounds and showcasing the diverse range of specializations available within the field.
- Annually evaluate **Program curricula** for relevancy, continued alignment with the University's pillars of success, and the incorporation of new pedagogical methodologies and technologies. The end-result would be the provision of a comprehensive planning education dedicated to the intellectual development of creative, civic-minded, analytical and critical thinking urban and regional planning practitioners, researchers and leaders capable of guiding communities and decision makers to advance positive change in society's global market-place.
- Provide additional support to the **Program Advisory Committee (PAC)** – a group of professionals and stakeholders with experience and expertise in the Planning field who, together, would provide advice and support to DURP on the design, development, implementation, evaluation, maintenance, and revision of our Planning programs. This Committee would make recommendations for improvement and promote the programs in the community. The establishment and active involvement of Advisory Committees adds credibility to programs.
- Work with DURP alumni to **formalize an Alumni Association**. A program's alumni are the reflection of its past, representation of its present and a link to its future. A DURP Alumni Association would have a powerful and positive impact for students creating a support system, offering expertise, assistance in employability, and mentorship and scholarships.
- Continue to secure **financial resources** to fund DURP needs and aspirations. Faculty would be encouraged to pursue large-multidisciplinary/interdisciplinary grants and contracts. Internal efforts to develop a reward/incentive structure will be pursued. The Alumni Association will be asked to assist in funding raising and to consider developing an endowment fund for the department.

# STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS FOR DURP

- Continue to secure **financial resources** to fund DURP needs and aspirations. Faculty would be encouraged to pursue large-multidisciplinary/interdisciplinary grants and contracts. Internal efforts to develop a reward/incentive structure will be pursued. The Alumni Association will be asked to assist in funding raising and to consider developing an endowment fund for the department.
- Develop a **Continuing Education** initiative for practicing professionals and apply to become a CE provider through APA. A first concrete step will be to strengthen the annual Community Planning month activities followed by the development of one or more certificate program to encourage continuing education of alumni and other professionals.
- Develop a **hybrid undergraduate interdisciplinary degree** as a feeder for the master's program. This would be built on current and anticipated resources including faculty areas of expertise primarily from the College of Science, Engineering and Technology.
- Reactivate the **Center for Urban Planning and Policy Assessment (CUPPA)** as the research and public service arm of DURP. Areas of research will build on and expand faculty's areas of expertise in climate change, emergency management, food security, clean energy and other environmental, economic and social justice issues. CUPPA will strengthen DCRP's commitment to student experiential learning and public engagement to connect theory to practice and provide technical assistance to the community.
- Continue strengthening the **Outcome Assessment Process** using new and updated metrics to evaluate student learning outcomes as well as programmatic outcomes in conjunction with the Office of Institutional Research.
- Strengthen the **Student Planning Association** as an inclusive organization committed to building the potential of DURP Planning students by advocating excellence in planning through networking and volunteer opportunities, social events, and academic and professional knowledge and skill-building activities.

# Departmental Projects & Activities

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This is  
your world.  
Shape it  
or someone  
else will



## FALL 2024 SEMESTER HIGHLIGHTS

- DURP facilitated the hosting of One Voice's 2024 Mississippi Black Leadership Summit co-sponsored by Hope Credit Union's Policy Institute on November 21-22, 2024. The theme was Empowering Leaders to Build Strong Cities and Resilient Communities. Dr. Michael McPhee, CEO Policy Link and Jennifer Riley Collings, HUD's Regional Administrator for the Southeast were keynote speakers. Dr. Herbert presented at one of the Collective Power Sessions on *"From Strategy to Success: Crafting Winning Proposals and Securing Funding"*
- Dr. Herbert was Lead facilitator for the City of Rolling Fork, MS, Disaster Recovery Taskforce. The output was a Long-term Disaster Recovery plan. The final draft was completed on November 19, 2024
- Dr. Herbert presented research on *"Climate Impacts on Coastal Regions: Assessing Coastal Adaptation Strategies"* at the Bays and Bayous Symposium on November 19-20.
- DURP hosted a face-to-face workshop with scientists from the Department of Defense Oak Ridge National Lab on November 15, 2024. This was the third in a series of workshops. Three senior scientists from the Geospatial and Human Security Division presented research on *"Predicting Modeling Techniques and Machine Learning for Sustainable Urban Development"*. The Division of Graduate Studies co-hosted this workshop. DURP is in discussion with the team to possibly develop a studio class around this theme.
- Along with representatives from the MS Health Professionals for Climate and Health Equity and Jackson NOAA's office, Dr. Herbert presented research on *"Adapting to Climate Change: Program & Initiatives for Resilience and Sustainability"* at the Mississippi Public Health Association Annual Conference in Vicksburg, Mississippi, November 14, 2024.

This is  
*your* world.  
Shape it  
or someone  
else will



## FALL 2024 SEMESTER HIGHLIGHTS

- Drs. Thomas and Al Douri attended the Grant Development Workshop with NSF senior leadership in Louisiana on November 12-13, 2024. This workshop is funded by NSF's Directorate for STEM Education through the Division of Research on Learning.
- Dr. Herbert is PI to a \$500K National Academies of Science, Engineering and Mathematics grant on *"Strengthening Minority Opportunity Youth Participation for a Future-Ready Energy Literate and Resilient Workforce"*. The official start date of December 1, 2024
- Dr. Herbert is a co-PI to \$5.9M NSF *"Reversing Disproportionate Impacts of Hydroclimatic Extremes in Water-Rich Regions via Justice-Minded Research and Collaborative Adaptation Planning"*.
- Dr. Herbert serves as Co-Chair, National Academies of Science, Engineering and Mathematics Committee of Experts for Building Health and Climate Research Capacity in the U.S. Gulf Coast: Elevating Minority-Serving Institutions as Key Partners. The committee hosted the first of two workshops in Houston on October 29, 2024.
- Dr. Herbert presented at the US HUD Year-end Conversation on the State of Furthering Fair Housing and Fair Housing Rights, December 19, 2024

## Building Health and Resilience Research Capacity in the U.S. Gulf Coast: Elevating Minority-Serving Institutions as Key Partners

With support from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, the Gulf Research Program will appoint an ad-hoc committee to design and implement a series of evidence-based workshops in collaboration with the Board of Higher Education and Workforce and the Board on Gulf Education and Engagement that will discuss opportunities for Minority Serving Institutions to increase participation and competitiveness in community-engaged climate and health research.

### Committee

CO-CHAIR

**Berneece S. Herbert**

CO-CHAIR

**Shamarial Roberson**

MEMBER

**Mona N. Fouad**

MEMBER

**Lance M. Hallberg**

MEMBER

**Aurelia Jones-Taylor**

MEMBER

**Erin Lynch**

MEMBER

**Briana H. Salas**

MEMBER

**Paul B. Tchounwou**



See all bios



Download all bios

<https://www.nationalacademies.org/our-work/building-health-and-climate-research-capacity-in-the-us-gulf-coast-elevating-minority-serving-institutions-as-key-partners-a-workshop-series#sectionCommittee>



The poster features a background image of two students, a woman and a man, sitting on a lawn and looking at a tablet together. The text is overlaid on this image and in various colored boxes. At the top left, the National Academies logo is displayed with 'Sciences Engineering Medicine' to its right. Below the logo is the text 'GULF RESEARCH PROGRAM'. To the right, a dark blue box contains the workshop title. A purple circle highlights the date and location. A large teal circle on the right contains a detailed description of the workshop. At the bottom left is a QR code, and at the bottom right is a 'SCAN TO REGISTER!' button. The footer includes an email address and social media icons.

NATIONAL ACADEMIES Sciences Engineering Medicine

GULF RESEARCH PROGRAM

A WORKSHOP SERIES:

**Building Health and Climate Research Capacity in the U.S. Gulf Coast:**

*Elevating Minority-Serving Institutions as Key Partners*

**WORKSHOP 1**

**Date:**  
October 29, 2024

**Location:**  
University of Houston-Downtown

This workshop is the first in a series that explores opportunities for Minority Serving Institutions (MSIs) to have greater participation, competitiveness, and leadership in community-engaged research efforts. Participants will engage in discussions around the current status of available infrastructures to support MSI-led community-engaged research, as well as examine opportunities for MSIs to lead research related to climate, health, and resilience. The second workshop will take place February 2025 in New Orleans. [Visit our website for more information.](#)

**SCAN TO REGISTER!**

Registration for in-person or virtual attendance is required. In-person availability is limited.

ireimanis@nas.edu

f in t



## Workshop #2

### Building Health and Resilience Research Capacity in the U.S. Gulf Coast: Elevating Minority-Serving Institutions as Key Partners

#### Public Agenda

February 20, 2025

Xavier University of Louisiana  
Administration Auditorium  
7325 Drexel Dr, New Orleans, LA 70125

#### Land Acknowledgment:

We gather on the traditional land of the Chahta Yakni (Choctaw) and the Chitimacha peoples past and present, and we honor with gratitude the land itself and the people who have stewarded it throughout the generations. We honor and respect the enduring relationship that exists between these peoples and nations and this land. In making this land acknowledgement, we affirm Indigenous sovereignty, history, and experiences.

#### Objectives

- Discuss how Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) and Minority Serving Institutions (MSIs) would like to be engaged in community-engaged research efforts.
- Discuss research opportunities that address the compounding effects of extreme weather events and environmental stressors on human health, inform and improve public health data systems, and enhance community resilience.
- Discuss partnerships for supporting HBCU and MSI participation in health and resilience related community-engaged research.

#### Thursday, February 20, 2025

8 – 9 AM

Registration and Breakfast

9 – 9:10 AM

**Welcoming Remarks:** Workshop Planning Committee Co-Chairs

[Dr. Berneece Herbert](#)

Associate Professor & Department Chair, Urban & Regional Planning  
Jackson State University

[Dr. Shamarial Roberson](#)

Chief Executive Officer  
DSR Public Health Foundation, Inc.

9:10 – 9:20 AM

**Workshop Purpose and Context**

NATIONAL ACADEMIES  
Sciences  
Engineering  
Medicine

GULF RESEARCH PROGRAM

## WORKSHOP 2

**When:**  
February 20, 2025  
9 AM - 5 PM CT

**Where:**  
Xavier University of  
Louisiana



**SCAN TO REGISTER!**

A WORKSHOP SERIES:

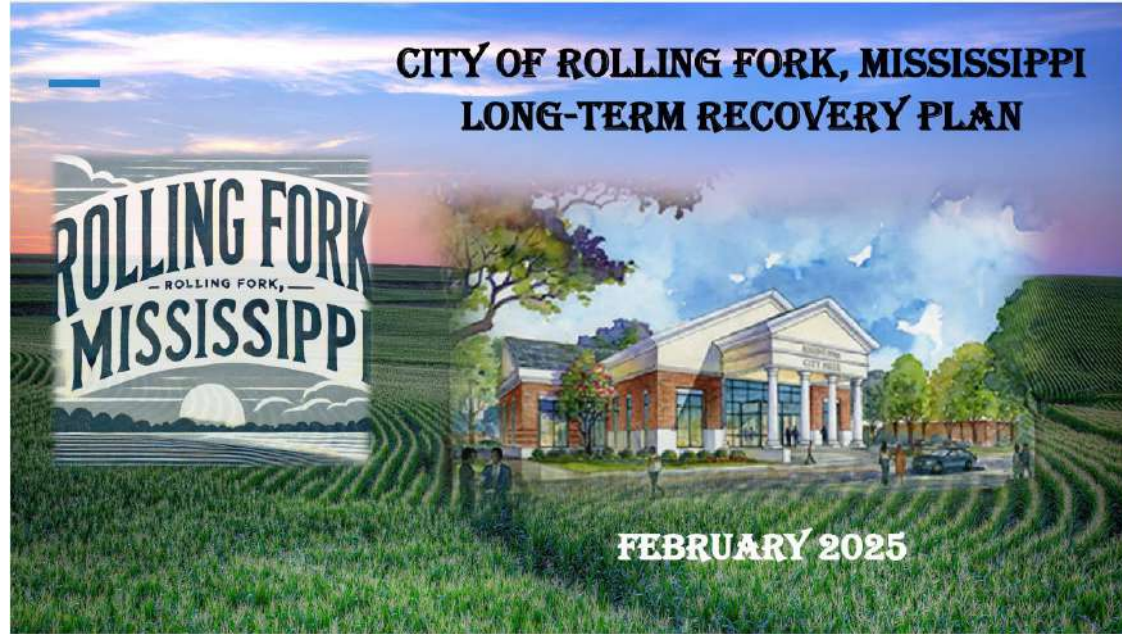
## Building Health and Resilience Research Capacity in the US Gulf Coast:

*Elevating Minority-Serving Institutions as Key Partners*

With support from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, this one-day workshop is the second convening in a series that explores opportunities for Minority Serving Institutions (MSIs) to have greater participation, competitiveness, and leadership in community-engaged research efforts related to extreme weather impacts on human health and resilience.

Throughout the day, participants will hear from community leaders and academic researchers who have engaged in and sustained partnerships to conduct community-engaged research at MSIs and HBCUs. Between panels, participants will have opportunities to participate in small group discussions and a mapping activity followed by a networking reception. This workshop is open to the public and encourages community members, students, and faculty from MSIs and HBCUs to register.

*Registration for in-person or virtual attendance is required. In-person availability is limited.*



Berneece S. Herbert, PhD  
Associate Professor & Chair,  
Department of Urban & Regional Planning  
Jackson State University

Supported by  
FEMA's Community Assistance Recovery Support Function  
&  
South Delta Planning & Development District (SDPDD)

## ROLLING FORK, MISSISSIPPI

### MAYOR

- Eldridge Walker

### CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS

- Vice Mayor LaDonna Sias, Ward 3
- Alderwoman Carolyn Washington, Alderman-at-Large
- Alderman Calvin Stewart, Ward 1
- Alderman Undray Williams, Ward 4
- Alderman Barton Stephenson, Ward 2

### TASK FORCE LEAD

- Berneece S. Herbert, PhD

### DISASTER RECOVERY COORDINATOR

- Jacqueline Hughes





Dr. Jennifer Ladd-Lively is a distinguished R&D staff member and the interim Division Director for the Geospatial Science and Human Security Division in the National Security Sciences Directorate at Oak Ridge National Laboratory. She has been at ORNL since 2004. Jennifer received her B.S. in chemical engineering from Tennessee Technological University in 2002 and a M.S. and Ph.D. in chemical engineering from the University of Tennessee in 2004 and 2013, respectively. Jennifer is the ORNL point of contact for the NNSA Office of Defense Nuclear Nonproliferation Research and Development (DNN R&D) and the Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Nuclear Energy Nuclear Energy Emerging Technologies (NEET) Advanced Sensors and Instrumentation (ASI) Program. She has uranium processing and nuclear forensics experience and has worked in most areas of the nuclear fuel cycle. Additionally, she has coordinated and implemented large-scale, multi-laboratory projects and field campaigns. Jennifer served three years (2010-2013) as technical advisor for the Signatures and Observables program of DNN R&D in Washington, DC.

JSU's Department of Urban & Regional Planning in partnership with ORNL's Geospatial Science & Human Security Division Presents

### AN OVERVIEW OF OAK RIDGE NATIONAL LABORATORY (ORNL) AND THE GEOSPATIAL SCIENCE AND HUMAN SECURITY (GSHS) DIVISION

By  
**Dr. Jennifer Ladd-Lively**  
Interim Director, GSHS Division

Thursday, July 18 @ 2 pm (CST)

Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL) is the largest multi-disciplinary laboratory under the US Department of Energy and the world's premier research institution. ORNL delivers scientific discoveries and technical breakthroughs needed to realize solutions in energy and national security and provide economic benefit to the nation.

The Geospatial Science and Human Security (GSHS) Division at ORNL is a leading research group that integrates expertise in:

- Human dynamics
- Location intelligence
- Geospatial AI
- Remote sensing
- Autonomous systems
- Resilient communications
- High-performance computing

#### Impact Areas:

- Population dynamics
- Disaster anticipation, analysis, and mitigation
- Novel insights for decision-makers
- Landscape and human dynamics visualization

Join us at:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83752454433?pwd=LNH5ORe65QAj3t77ptayGfW5Pa7qZq.1>

For additional information, please email [bernece.herbet@jsums.edu](mailto:bernece.herbet@jsums.edu) or [tamara.k.preston@jdums.edu](mailto:tamara.k.preston@jdums.edu).



## WEBINAR: UNDERSTANDING HUMAN POPULATION DYNAMICS USING LANDSCAN



ORNL researchers quantified human behaviors during the early days of COVID-19, which could be useful for disaster response or city planning.  
Credit: Nathas Armitstead/ORNL, U.S. DOE, May 2, 2022



ORNL scientists study activity patterns of populations around the world, identifying communities that are most likely to face extreme climate events and associated national security challenges.  
Credit: Erik Schmidt/ORNL, U.S. DOE

LandScan is a global population distribution dataset that provides a high-resolution representation of the average population in a given area over a 24-hour period. LandScan is used for a variety of purposes, including:

- Disaster response
- Emergency management
- Human health and security
- Site suitability studies

Join Us:

Tuesday October 15, 2024

11 am - 12:30 (CST)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://jacksonstateu.zoom.us/j/88156630259?pwd=odyNlZMxMuusoLkUy54JxcR4g9teHb.1>

Meeting ID: 881 5663 0259

Passcode: 441745



NATIONAL SECURITY SCIENCES DIRECTORATE  
GEOSPATIAL SCIENCE AND HUMAN SECURITY DIVISION





## PREDICTIVE MODELING TECHNIQUES AND MACHINE LEARNING FOR SUSTAINABLE URBAN DEVELOPMENT

Featuring...



**Clinton Stipek, PhD, Associate**  
Geospatial Data Modeling Group,  
Geospatial Science and Human  
Security Division at Oak Ridge  
National Laboratory



**Annetta Burger, PhD,**  
**FRD Scientist,** Locational  
Intelligence Group,  
Geospatial Science and  
Human Security Division  
at Oak Ridge National  
Laboratory.



**Joe Tuccillo, Research Scientist,**  
Human Geography Group,  
Geospatial Science and Human  
Security Division at Oak Ridge  
National Laboratory

Join us!

Friday, November 15, 2024  
9 am – 12 noon  
JSU Instructional Classroom  
HT Sampson Library  
1400 John R. Lynch St.  
Jackson, MS 39217

Zoom Meeting  
<https://jacksonstate.uconn.edu/j/03217690512?pwd=XVxYFVFEduQUFvPjV8Yp0w2i0eGkbm.1>

Meeting ID: 892 1769 0512  
Passcode: 976854

Hosted by the Department of Urban & Regional Planning in the College of Science, Engineering & Technology at Jackson State University in conjunction with the Division of Graduate Studies, scientists from Oak Ridge National Laboratory will delve into predictive modeling to evaluate the impacts of urban planning decisions, employing data modeling techniques to forecast the outcomes of different development scenarios. With a focus on sustainability and resilience, participants will learn how insights into human behavior can enhance the design of urban spaces and services. Case studies will be presented to illustrate successful applications of these concepts in real-world contexts.



NATIONAL SECURITY SCIENCES DIRECTORATE  
GEOSPATIAL SCIENCE AND HUMAN SECURITY DIVISION



URBAN AND REGIONAL PLANNING

For additional information, please contact [tamara.k.preston@jsums.edu](mailto:tamara.k.preston@jsums.edu) or [Berniece.Herbert@jsums.edu](mailto:Berniece.Herbert@jsums.edu)



## “ADVANCING BLACK WORKERS IN THE SOUTH: AN HBCU RESEARCH INITIATIVE”

Cornell University’s Institute for Labor Relations partnered with Jobs with Justice and the Center for Economic Policy Research at Clark Atlanta and secured a \$450,000 grant from WorkRise for a project to improve economic security and mobility for low-wage workers and create a more equitable labor market in the South.

Kate Bronfenbrenner, director of labor education research and senior lecturer at the ILR School, and three other principal investigators lead a team of researchers, including scholars from five historically Black colleges and universities (HBCUs), as they conduct an in-depth study of worker organizing by Black workers in five sites across the South. The HBCU’s include Clark Atlanta University; Clinton College; Jackson State University; Norfolk State University and the University of Texas, Arlington.



**JSU JACKSON STATE UNIVERSITY**  
URBAN AND REGIONAL PLANNING

### SOUTHERN WORKER SURVEY

#### We Want to Hear from You!

**Your Voice Matters – Share Your Experience!**  
Are you a worker in the South? We want to hear about your job experiences, challenges, and insights!

**Who’s Conducting This Survey?**  
The Department of Urban & Regional Planning at **Jackson State University** is conducting a survey to gather valuable information about the workforce in our region.

**How Can You Participate?**  
1. Look for a **post card from Jackson State** and a **text message** from a graduate student from JSU.  
2. Click the **link** provided in the message to begin the survey. Enter the **case number** that was provided to you when prompted. Share your experiences and opinions.

**Why Should You Participate?**

- Your responses will contribute to important research on workers’ rights.
- This is a chance to have your voice heard on key issues affecting workers in the South!

*Your responses will be kept confidential and used solely for research purposes.*

# CONVERSATION ON THE STATE OF FURTHERING FAIR HOUSING & FAIR HOUSING RIGHTS, DECEMBER 19, 2024

## SAVE THE DATE: A YEAR-END CONVERSATION ON THE STATE OF FURTHERING FAIR HOUSING AND FAIR HOUSING RIGHTS



WITH SPECIAL REMARKS FROM  
CONGRESSMAN BENNIE THOMPSON  
(VIRTUAL)



Thursday, December 19  
10 a.m. to 12 p.m.



Dr. A.H. McCoy Federal Building  
100 W. Capitol St.  
Jackson, MS 39269-1096



Contact:  
Jeffrey.B.Smith@hud.gov



Housing Education and Economic Development (HEED) and Operation Shoestring are proud to host Diane M. Shelley, the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity for a special community dialogue. The event will provide a unique opportunity to engage directly with HUD leadership and gain valuable insights on key initiatives and priorities for the agency.

We warmly invite local community leaders, fair housing advocates, and professionals to join us for this important event.



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT  
WASHINGTON, DC 20416-3000

ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR  
FAIR HOUSING AND EQUAL OPPORTUNITY

January 10, 2025

Berniece Herbert, Ph.D.

Associate Professor & Chair

Department of Urban and Regional Planning

Jackson State University

101 W. Capitol St.

Jackson, MS 39201

berniece.herbert@jsums.edu

Re: A Year-end Conversation on the State of Furthering Fair Housing and Fair Housing Rights

Dear Dr. Herbert:

On behalf of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity (FHEO), I want to express our sincere gratitude for your participation in our conversation regarding the state of fair housing and fair housing rights. I extend my deepest gratitude to all of the state and local leaders and fair housing stakeholders who participated, as well as Congressman Bennie Thompson and his staff, Charles Harris and HEED for helping organize the event, and to you specifically for your commitment to advancing fair housing in Mississippi. The discussion was robust, and I greatly appreciate the information and insights that were shared.

As this Presidential term ends and my tenure as head of FHEO concludes, FHEO wants to encourage communities to continue working together for better outcomes in furthering fair housing by connecting through conversation and exchange of resources. Attached is a summary of FHEO's work during this administration, which was highlighted at the convening.

We encourage you to keep the momentum going by joining or staying engaged with your local Fair Housing Initiatives Program and other entities advancing fair housing. These organizations have been doing notable work. For instance, HEED will be hosting its 36th Annual Fair Housing Fair Lending Conference on April 24 and 25 in Jackson, Mississippi. This conference will provide a platform for continued dialogue, learning, and collaboration on critical fair housing issues. (More information is at [www.heedhousing.org](http://www.heedhousing.org).) Together, we can continue to drive meaningful change in our communities.

Also, please explore the following websites, which contain data and information that may assist you in your efforts to continue to further fair housing.

- Socio-Demographic Data Dashboards: [www.huduser.gov/portal/dataset/socio-demographic-dashboards.html](http://www.huduser.gov/portal/dataset/socio-demographic-dashboards.html)
- Data Dashboards Query Tool: <https://data.huduser.gov/dashboard/>

Lastly, I want to remind you that there are a few other HUD websites designed to support you with your work:

- HUD Fair Housing Guidance: [www.hud.gov/program\\_offices/fair\\_housing\\_equal\\_opp/fheo\\_guidance](http://www.hud.gov/program_offices/fair_housing_equal_opp/fheo_guidance)
- HUD Fair Housing Policy Statements, Notices & Other Documents: [www.hud.gov/program\\_offices/fair\\_housing\\_equal\\_opp/fair\\_housing\\_rules\\_policy\\_statements\\_notices\\_other\\_documents](http://www.hud.gov/program_offices/fair_housing_equal_opp/fair_housing_rules_policy_statements_notices_other_documents)
- HUD Fair Housing Enforcement Activity: [www.hud.gov/program\\_offices/fair\\_housing\\_equal\\_opp/enforcement](http://www.hud.gov/program_offices/fair_housing_equal_opp/enforcement)

Although I will be exiting the office, several key career staff will remain with HUD:

- Jeffrey Smith (Smith), Special Assistant to the Office of the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary (FHEO)
- Sarah Blazueli, Special Assistant to the Office of the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary (FHEO)
- Staci Gillam, Region I/ Programs & Compliance Division Director (FHEO)
- Adrenace Williams, Mississippi Field Office Director (FPM)

They are familiar with available tools that may be of assistance to your community and look forward to continuing to work with you, your office, and other participants in furthering fair housing.

Best regards,

*Diane M. Shelley*

Diane M. Shelley

Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary

Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

## HBCU SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES' INITIATIVE RESEARCH FELLOWS' PROGRAM

The HBCU Sustainable Communities Initiative (HBCU SCI) seeks to equip HBCU talent with support, resources, and knowledge to ensure our communities are socially, economically, and environmentally sustainable.

The HBCU Sustainable Communities Initiative is delivered through a collaborative partnership among three national nonprofit organizations dedicated to creating a more equitable, inclusive, and socially just world.

### Research Fellows Program

The HBCU SCI Community Research Fellowships provides a platform for college undergraduates to contribute to real-world solutions for pressing sustainability challenges. The program cultivates the next generation of leaders dedicated to creating a more sustainable future by promoting collaboration, critical thinking, and community engagement.

DURP participated in the 2023/2024 research fellows' program on a project titled "Enhancing sustainability and landscape connectivity through the design of a conceptual multifunctional urban green corridor system in Jackson MS". Dr. Bernece Herbert coordinated the program overseeing the program at Hampton University, Alabama A&M University and Tougaloo College.



**APPLY NOW FOR HBCU SCI COMMUNITY RESEARCH GRANTS**

HBCU SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES INITIATIVE (HBCU SCI) is dedicated to fostering the growth of HBCU talent in STEM and sustainability.

### HBCU SCI COMMUNITY RESEARCH GRANTS

Research teams must be led by faculty mentors who are employed by HBCUs in Alabama, Georgia, Mississippi, Tennessee, and Virginia, as well as PBIs in Illinois. Each team should consist of 3 to 5 undergraduate students attending HBCUs or PBIs in these states.

Faculty Mentors will engage college undergraduates in meaningful research projects that engage community stakeholders and seek to find solutions for local sustainability challenges.

**Program Objectives:**

- Foster a deeper understanding of sustainability issues among college undergraduates.
- Encourage community engagement and collaboration through research.
- Promote critical thinking, problem-solving, and research skills development.
- Contribute to actionable solutions for community development.
- Increase awareness of sustainability issues to a broad audience.
- Develop a network of faculty and students focused on sustainability issues.

Visit [www.hbusci.org/community-research](http://www.hbusci.org/community-research) for more information and to apply.

Applications for community research grants are now **OPEN**

Priority Deadline **December 20, 2024**

USE THIS QR CODE AND LINK TO APPLY AT HBCUSCI.ORG



**SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES HBCU INITIATIVE**

## INROADS INTERNSHIP PROGRAM AND HBCU SCI OPPORTUNITIES

Marc McClendon  
University Relations Manager, INROADS

Join us on  
Thursday October 17th, 2024  
11:30am – 12:30 pm  
John A. Peoples Conference Room

Lunch will be provided

For additional information, contact:  
[bernece.herbert@jsu.edu](mailto:bernece.herbert@jsu.edu) or  
[martha.n.tchounwou@jsu.edu](mailto:martha.n.tchounwou@jsu.edu)

**JSU JACKSON STATE UNIVERSITY**  
URBAN AND REGIONAL PLANNING

# HBCU SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES' INITIATIVE RESEARCH FELLOWS' PROGRAM

The HBCU SCI Community Research Fellows worked in teams and presented two posters at Jackson State University's Research Engagement Week 2024's Student Poster Competition. One of the teams' poster was awarded first in the poster competition.





HBCU-SCI Recruitment with Marc McClendon on JSU Campus, Fall 2024



**BRIDGING TOMORROW SYMPOSIUM  
NOVEMBER 14, 2024**



# DURP ANNUAL CHAT & CHEW FOR COMMUNITY PLANNING MONTH – OCTOBER 10, 2024



## DEPARTMENT OF URBAN & REGIONAL PLANNING PRESENTS PLANNING POLITICAL POWER HOUR



**Enhancing Urban Planning Through  
Private-Public Collaborations**

**Time:** 12:00 pm-1:30pm

**Date:** Thursday, October 10, 2024

**Location:** 101 Building Downtown  
101 West Capitol Street  
Jackson MS, 39201

*Lunch will be served from 11:30 am-11:50 am*



FACULTY & STUDENTS COMPA CONFERENCE, FEBRUARY 2024



FACULTY ATTEND THE 2024 ANNUAL ACSP CONFERENCE, NOVEMBER 7-9, 2024



Connecting educators, researchers and students  
**ACSP2024 ANNUAL CONFERENCE**  
NOVEMBER 7-9, 2024 **SEATTLE**



**FACULTY PRESENT AT MPHA ANNUAL CONFERENCE  
NOVEMBER 14-15, 2024**

**SESSION 1B: CULTIVATING, CONNECTING, AND COLLABORATING AROUND CLIMATE  
HEALTH**

- Gerri A. Cannon-Smith, MD, MPH, FAAP Medical Society Consortium Climate and Health Equity Fellow Steering Committee
- Bernece Herbert, PhD, Chair of the Department of Urban and Regional Planning at Jackson State University
- Ashlyn Jackson, MS, Meteorologist, Aviation/Climate/Hydro Focal Point, National Weather Service, WFO, Jackson, MS



**Mississippi Public Health Association  
86th Annual Conference & Business Meeting  
November 14-15, 2024  
Vicksburg, Mississippi**



## FACULTY PRESENT AT ASPRS CONFERENCE SPONSORED BY OAK RIDGE NATIONAL LABORATORY, MAY 2024



Dr. Herbert is one of the speakers for the ASPRS Conference sponsored by Oak Ridge National Laboratory, May 2024.



Herbert, B. (2024 May). Paper Presentation. Enhancing Sustainability and Landscape Connectivity through the Design of a Conceptual Multifunctional Urban Green Corridor System in Jackson MS. Mid-South American Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing (ASPRS) Conference. Oakridge, TN.

# FALL 2024 DOCTORAL DEGREE GRADUATES





2024  
**BAYS AND BAYOUS**

NOV. 19-20

Biloxi, Mississippi

## CLIMATE IMPACTS ON COASTAL REGIONS: ASSESSING COASTAL ADAPTATION STRATEGIES

Berneece S. Herbert, PhD  
Associate Professor & Chair

Department of Urban & Regional Planning  
Jackson State University

November 19, 2024



NOV. 19-20

MISSISSIPPI COAST  
CONVENTION  
CENTER

Biloxi, Mississippi

...

TRACKS

Building Resilience to  
Challenges and  
Disruptions

Conserving and  
Restoring Critical  
Habitats

Enhancing  
Stewardship and  
Sustainability

The Oyster is Your  
World

Understanding and  
Managing Living  
Resources

Understanding the  
Ways of the Water

# FACULTY & HBCU SCI FELLOWS ATTEND THE BLACK COMMUNITIES, CLIMATES AND THE ENVIRONMENT SUMMIT, JUNE 2024

**PAYNE CENTER for SOCIAL JUSTICE**  
THORGOOD MARSHALL COLLEGE FUND

**INEQUALITIES, AND SOLUTIONS**  
Tuesday, June 4, 2024  
GALLUP Great Hall  
901 F Street NW  
Washington, DC 20004  
8:00 am to 3:00 pm  
*This is an in-person event. Seating is limited.  
Please RSVP for breakfast and lunch count.*



In partnership with  
Binghamton University's  
Harriet Tubman Center for  
Freedom and Equity and  
Kaschak Institute for Social  
Justice for Women and Girls

CONFIRMED KEYNOTE SPEAKERS  
**LTG Russel Honoré**  
**Dr. Earthea Nance**

Register here  


OTHER SPEAKERS INCLUDE  
**Jim Clifton**  
**Charles Ellison**  
**Queen Quet**  
**Henry Obispo**  
Jonathan C. Aguirre  
Benjamin Davis, Jr.  
Marilyn L. Hemingway  
Meklyn S. Hollis Jr.  
Elyse Mace  
Richard W. Moore



# STUDENTS ATTEND APA'S FEDERAL PLANNING DIVISION WORKSHOP, MARCH 2024



## STUDENTS ATTEND ALABAMA & MISSISSIPPI CHAPTERS OF THE APA'S JOINT CONFERENCE, OCTOBER 2022



### Presentations:

- Herbert, B. *Vulnerability & Resiliency Dimensions of MTS Infrastructure in the Deep South*. American Planning Association AL/MS Chapter Conference, October 2022
- Stewart, L. *Public Outreach Vs. Budget and COVID: An Assessment of Metroplan's First Phase of Outreach During the Height of COVID on a Reduced Budget*, American Planning Association AL/MS Chapter Conference, October 2022



**JSU-UC BERKELEY STUDENT  
EXCHANGE, MAY - OCTOBER 2023**



## JSU-UCB EXCHANGE – MAY 10 – 14, 2023

### Motivations:

- Repeated flooding of the Pearl River and its tributaries in Jackson
- No comprehensive flood management plan has been implemented
- Limited community access to ecosystem services
- Limited inclusion of community in decision-making and planning processes

### Objectives:

Develop recommendations for a Comprehensive River Management Plan that highlight:

- Flood mitigation along the Pearl River and its tributaries
- Social Justice and Equity
- Community voices
- River and Creek Access
- Ecological Function



## Re-envisioning Jackson's Urban Watershed

### Creek Restoration and Flood Risk Management

May 13, 2023

Project Team:

Kim Deniz, Master Student UCB  
Adrienne Dodd, PhD candidate UCB  
Jeran Herbert, PhD candidate JSU  
Tabris Smith, PhD candidate JSU

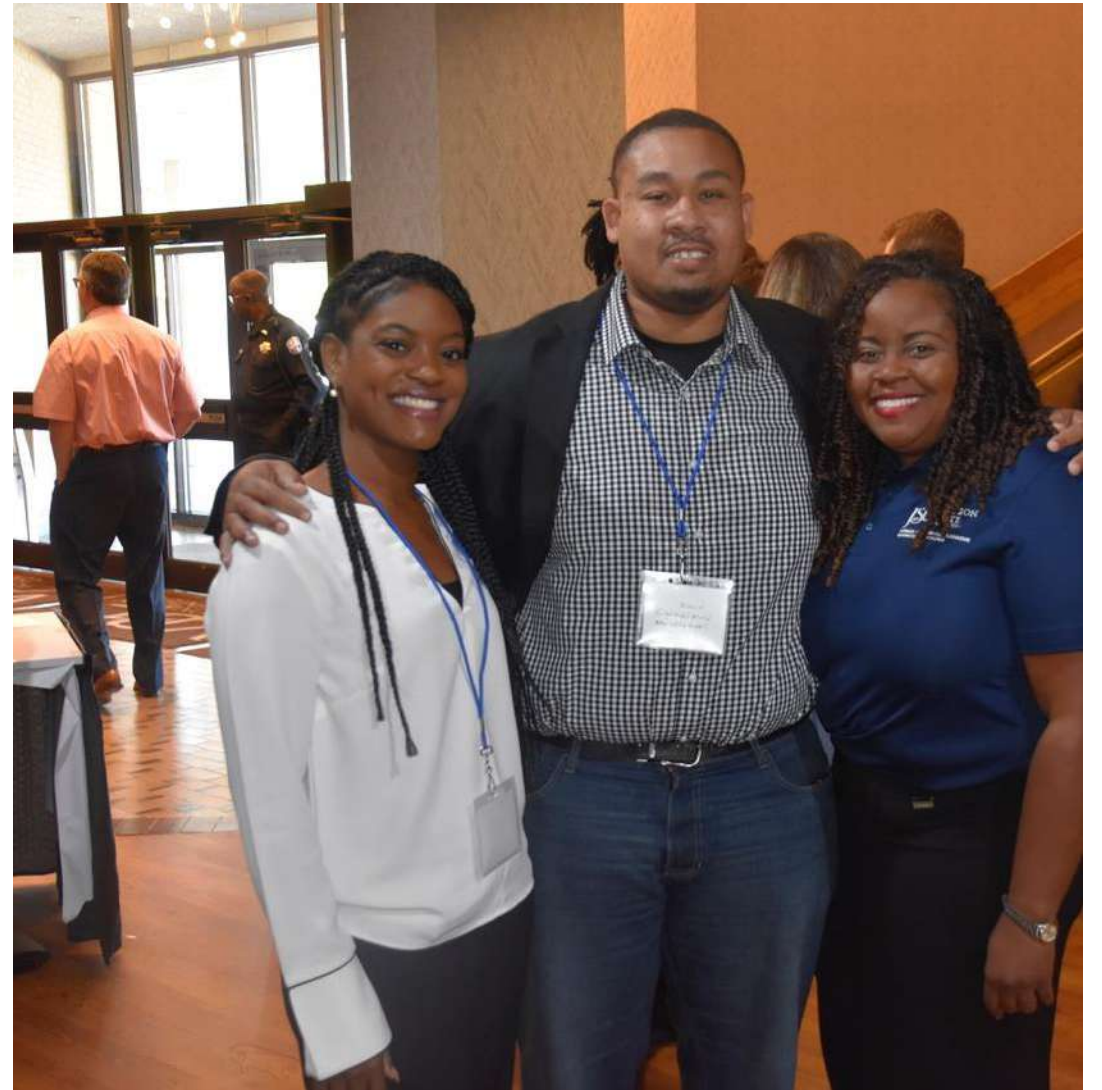




JSU-UCB EXCHANGE – MAY 10 – 14, 2023

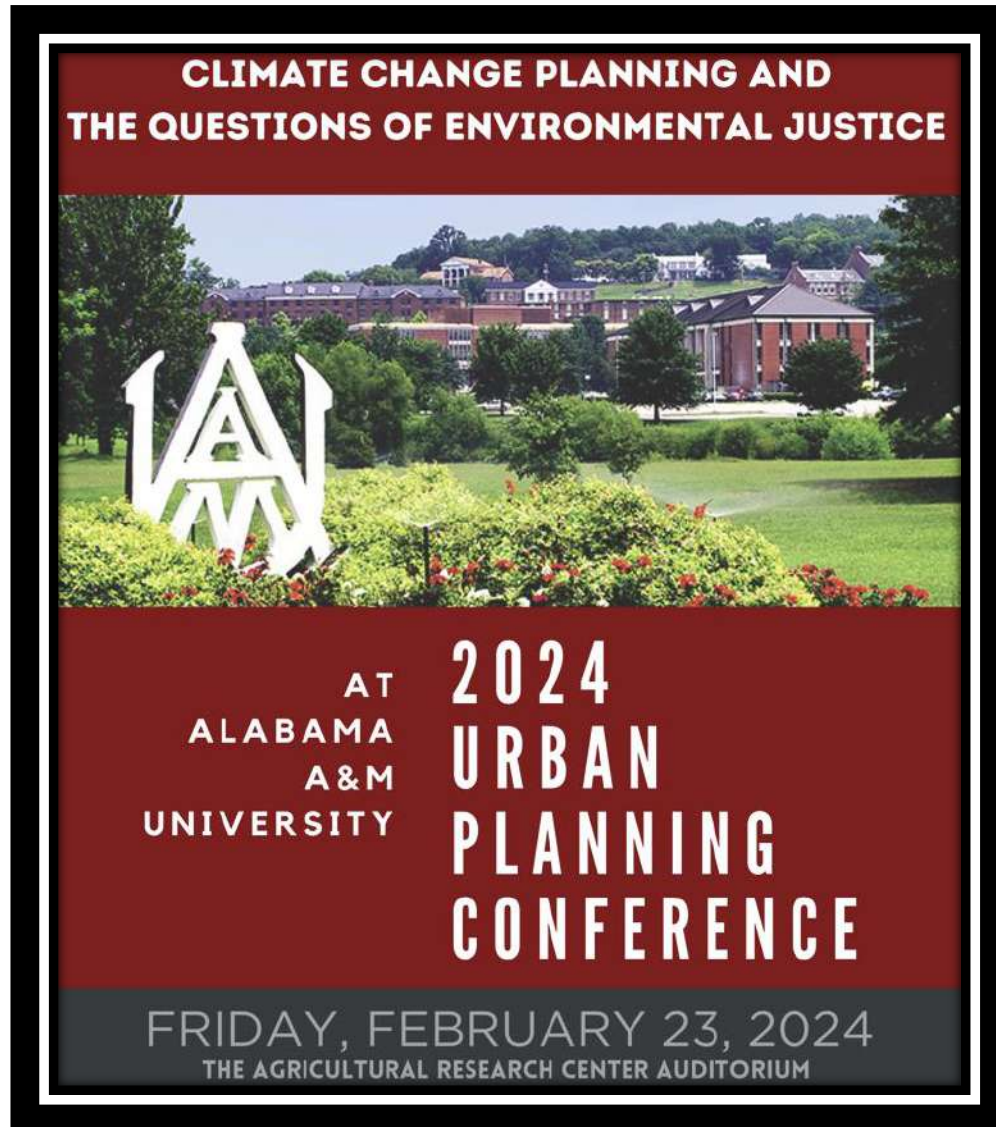


DURP STUDENTS & FACULTY AT THE ALABAMA/MISSISSIPPI JOINT CHAPTER CONFERENCE, OCTOBER 2020





## STUDENTS PRESENT AT ALABAMA A&M UNIVERSITY'S CLIMATE CHANGE PLANNING CONFERENCE



- ✓ Citizen Participation in Climate Action Planning for Improved Democracy: Innovations in Democratic Governance by Nicholas Johnson, PhD Candidate (Berneece S. Herbert, PhD, Research Advisor)
- ✓ DC's Energy Performance Standards: Driving Economic Inclusion Opportunities in the Green Building Sector by Tabaris Smith, PhD Candidate (Spring 2024) (Berneece S. Herbert, PhD, Research Advisor)
- ✓ Assessing Geothermal Energy Capacities In Western Canada by KeAndra Davis, PhD Student (Edmund Merem, PhD, Research Advisor)



From left to right...  
Kendra Davis, Dr.  
Berneece Herbert,  
Dr. Markessa  
Hughes, Nicholas  
Johnson &  
Christopher Ross

**In partnership with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the Mississippi Emergency Management Agency (MEMA), and NOLA Lending Group, JSU's Department of Urban & Regional Planning presents:**

**NAVIGATING DISASTER RECOVERY: CHALLENGES IN RURAL AMERICA**



**Date: Friday, March 1, 2024**

**Time: 12:00 noon - 1:30 pm (Lunch @ 11:30 am)**

**Location: COFO Civil Rights Education Center  
1017 John R Lynch Street, Jackson MS 39203**

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://jacksonstateu.zoom.us/j/84273045261?pwd=Yk5sc1Y5RXdXMVRBa29XcXRCa2hXdz09>

Meeting ID: 842 7304 5261

Passcode: 082829

**Panelists:**

- Jefferey Stakenburg, Federal Disaster Recovery Officer (FEMA)
- Cameron Horne, Infrastructure Branch Director (FEMA)
- Sheila Moore, Infrastructure Branch Director (FEMA)
- David Leiva, Economic Recovery & Academia Advisor (FEMA)
- Todd DeMuth, State Coordinating Officer (MEMA)

**Panel Objectives:**

- Understanding the nuances of disaster recovery in rural settings
- Identifying and overcoming resource limitations
- Building resilient communities in the face of ongoing challenges
- Collaborative approaches for effective recovery



## HOSTED FEMA WORKSHOP ON NAVIGATING DISASTER RECOVERY: CHALLENGES IN RURAL AMERICA, MARCH 2024

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# Mississippi Tornadoes Recovery

January 31, 2024

DR-4697-MS March 24-25 / DR-4727-MS June 14-19

DR-4697-MS

## “Lively Group Discussions” at Community Recovery Meeting

**ROLLING FORK, Miss.** - More than 30 people attended a disaster recovery community meeting in Sharkey County on Saturday, Jan. 27.

The South Delta Planning and Development District (SDPDD) hosted the gathering at Mississippi Christian Family Services in Rolling Fork, with support from Jackson State University and the Community Assistance team from FEMA Interagency Recovery Coordination (IRC).

The meeting gave community members an opportunity to get updates from elected officials and to identify priorities for recovery.

Dr. Bernece Herbert and students from Jackson State’s Department of Urban and Regional Planning facilitated breakout sessions as the community develops a long-term recovery plan.

Organizers were happy with the results. Jacqueline Hughes, Disaster Recovery Coordinator at SDPDD, said in an email that “The public eagerly engaged in the group discussion during the breakout sessions.” IRC reported “The breakout sessions sparked lively group discussions, with residents gaining valuable insights into the process of crafting a long-term recovery plan.”



More than 30 people participated in long-term recovery planning discussions on Jan. 27.



This recovery update, with activities and data about both DR-4697 and DR-4727, is distributed every Wednesday. Email story ideas and updates to [helen.lucas@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:helen.lucas@fema.dhs.gov)



In a breakout session, community members revisited previous projects and ideas as they developed recovery priorities.

STAY in TOUCH with FEMA call 800-621-3362 Web: [4697.FEMA.gov](http://4697.FEMA.gov) : 4727.FEMA.gov  
Facebook: [facebook.com/FEMA](https://facebook.com/FEMA) | Twitter: [twitter.com/femaregion4](https://twitter.com/femaregion4)



UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

College of Fine & Applied Arts  
Department of Urban & Regional Planning

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Home About Us Events 2023 Planning Colloquium – Bernece Herbert

## 2023 Planning Colloquium – Bernece Herbert

**MAR 3** March 3, 2023  
Friday, 100 PM - 2:00 PM  
Temple Buell Hall Plym Auditorium, room 134, 611 E Lorado Taft Dr, Champaign, IL  
[Or Online \(to register\)](#)

PRESENTS THE  
**2023 PLANNING COLLOQUIUM**  
Join the Department of Urban and Regional Planning Fridays at 1:00 PM to hear from

**Bernece S. Herbert, PhD**  
Associate Professor & Chair of the Department of Urban & Regional Planning at Jackson State University in Jackson, Mississippi.

TBH Plym Auditorium Friday March 3 1-2 pm

### Urban Water Crisis in the City of Jackson, MS

Department of Urban and Regional Planning Spring Colloquium

Decades of urban water crisis in Jackson, MS, the capital of the state of Mississippi and the largest city in the state demonstrates the unbelievable fragility and vulnerability of urban water systems in many poor and impoverished cities across the US. The consequences of these crises are even more challenging because of population aggregations and the consequences for the clustered social economic activities in urban areas. Clean and safe water is at the core of sustainable development, and access to it is critical to public health. The purpose of this presentation is to examine urban water crises through the lens of geography, public health and justice.

Urban Water Crisis in the City of Jackson, MS

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If you are unable to attend in person, you can register for Zoom information [here](#).

SHARE THIS EVENT

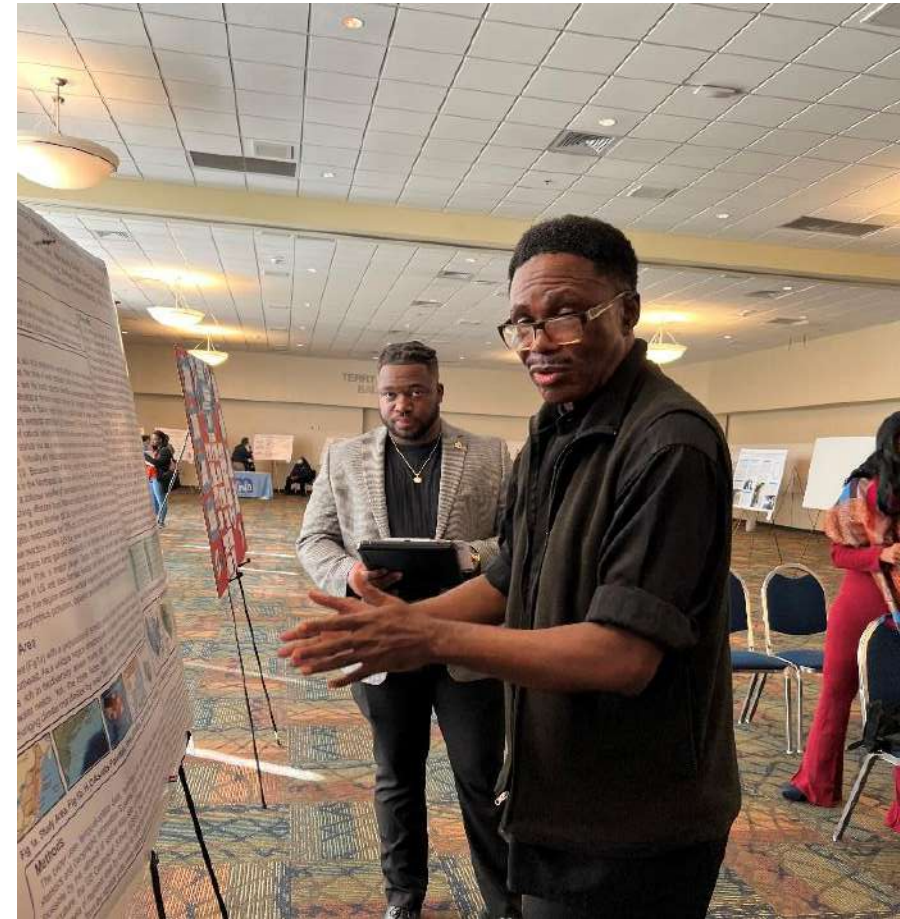
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Link



The Exposure to Carcinogens in Southeast Texas: An Evaluation of Hazardous Pollution and the Presence of Cancer Clusters Among Marginalized Communities in Houston, Texas, Genice Knight, Doctoral Candidate



Analysis of Climate Change Issues In Maryland's Southern Region. E C. Merem, Y Twumasi, J Wesley, M Crisler, D Olagbegi, G Hirse, J Offiah, P Isokpehi, Mo Alsarari and Z Emakpor

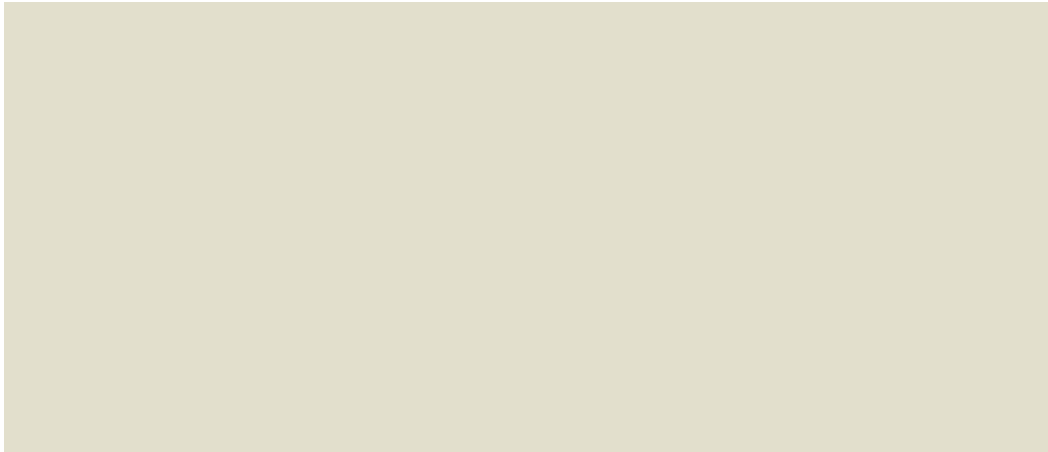
FACULTY AND STUDENTS ATTEND PACRI WORKSHOP, JUNE 2024



## FACULTY STUDENTS AND STAFF AT A VARIETY OF EVENTS



FACULTY AND STUDENTS AT THE APA'S FEDERAL PLANNING DIVISION WORKSHOP, APRIL 2023





# DURP CHAT AND CHEW, APRIL 2023



## Panelists:

- Ms. Chloe Dotson, Planning Director, City of Jackson
- Ms. Ester Ainsworth, Zoning Administrator, City of Jackson MS
- Dr. Robbie Smith, Manager, Office of Housing and Community Development, Department of Planning, City of Jackson MS
- Mr. Brandon Morey, VP of Tax Credit, Mississippi Home Corporation



# DURP THANKSGIVING DINNER NOVEMBER 2022



JSU DEPARTMENT OF URBAN  
AND REGIONAL PLANNING

THANKS  
GIVING  
*Dinner*

Thurs. Nov. 17, 2022  
6:00-9:00PM  
101 West Capitol Street  
Downtown Jackson, MS 39201



## ACSP CONFERENCE – TORONTO CANADA, NOVEMBER 2022



ACSP

Connecting educators,  
researchers and students

The Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning (ACSP) is a consortium of more than 100 university departments and programs offering planning degrees as well as programs that offer degrees affiliated with planning.

ACSP connects educators, researchers, and students, to advance knowledge about planning education and research.

ACSP is committed to promoting the field of planning as a diverse global community that works collectively toward healthy, equitable, and sustainable neighborhoods, cities, and regions.



*Dr. Bernece Herbert, Associate Professor & Chair, Department of Urban & Regional Planning is the ACSP Board's Southeast Regional Representative for 2021 - 2023*

# DURP HOSTED THE FUTURE OF ENERGY SYMPOSIUM, JUNE 2022

Funded by 2C Mississippi & Irby Construction



## THE FUTURE OF ENERGY

RENEWABLE IS THE NEW BLACK

16 JUNE - NOON-2 PM  
JACKSON STATE UNIVERSITY

REGISTER NOW:  
[BIT.LY/JSUENERGY](https://bit.ly/jsuenergy)

— FEATURING —

JASON REYNOLDS  
ENERGY

MELVIN ROLAND  
MISSISSIPPI POWER

TEQUILA SMITH  
GEORGIA POWER

OCTAVAIS WALTON  
CEMA

DEMETRIUS DAVIS  
ENERGY

JOIN US ON THE HISTORIC CAMPUS OF  
JACKSON STATE UNIVERSITY - DOWNTOWN CAMPUS  
101 WEST CAPITOL STREET, JACKSON MS.

Key leaders in the industry will discuss and examine the possibilities of better, more sustainable energy for our community and the world.

Sponsored by Jackson State University's Department of Urban & Regional Planning (DURP) in the College of Science Engineering & Technology in conjunction with 2C Mississippi.



# The Department of Urban & Regional Planning @



## CORE VALUES



For more information, please contact:  
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[Bernece.Herbert@jsums.edu](mailto:Bernece.Herbert@jsums.edu)

<http://www.jsums.edu/planning>  
Tel: 601-979-8732

