

About ASCEND

ASCEND is "A Student-Centered, Entrepreneurship Development Training Model to Increase Diversity in the Biomedical Research Workforce."

The purpose of this 5-year (2014-2019) award from the National Institutes of Health is to strengthen Morgan State University's biomedical training and research infrastructure, with the ultimate goal of training undergraduate students to become outstanding health researchers.

ASCEND will create a new cadre of biomedical researchers who are both familiar with the root causes of health and health disparity problems and highly competent to address them.



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ASCEND

Center for Biomedical Research



**Join the
Morgan State University
ASCEND team and become a
research entrepreneur!**

We seek applicants who are:

- Current MSU students with 20 to 70 credits in STEM or social behavioral sciences majors.
- Community college students considering transferring to MSU for a 4-year degree in STEM or social behavioral sciences disciplines.

*Developing the next generation
of leaders in health research!*

Summer Research Institute

The **Summer Research Institute (SRI)** is an exciting eight-week summer training program that will teach you about health research across the biological, physical, engineering and social/behavioral sciences, and train you how to think like a scientist. Over the course of the summer, participants will be exposed to many exciting faculty research projects on the MSU campus and at our partner institutions, including the University of Maryland and Johns Hopkins University.

All SRI activities are designed to encourage strong individual engagement and develop critical thinking skills. We utilize collaborative, peer-to-peer learning approaches. Students will work in teams, and will be encouraged to adopt an "each one, teach one" attitude. By the end of the eight-week course, you will be prepared to write a research proposal with a group of your peers from across different disciplines. Winning proposals will be given the opportunity to actually conduct the proposed research project.

The SRI targets college students in their second semester of their freshman year, their sophomore year or early in their junior year, who have completed 20-70 credits in their current STEM or social behavioral sciences major, and who aspire to a career in health research. SRI participants will be paid and are required to reside on campus during the full eight weeks of the program.

Additional information can be found at:

www.morgan.edu/ASCEND

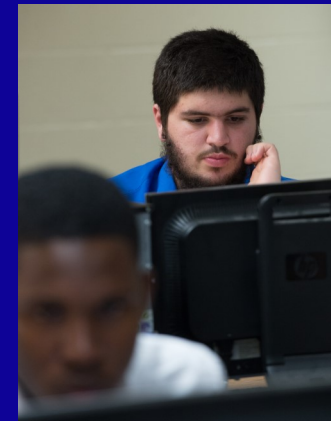
ASCEND Scholars

ASCEND Scholars will be selected from among the participants in the SRI and must be full-time students at MSU in the fall semester following the SRI. **ASCEND Scholars** will receive stipends and partial tuition support for two years, as they conduct their group (SRI) research projects and eventually work with faculty research mentors at MSU and from our partner institutions, in the "lab" or in the "field."

The **ASCEND Scholars** program is designed to prepare students for the important transition from undergraduate- to graduate-level expertise, and equip them with the necessary skills for a successful transition into a research-intensive graduate school program in the biomedical or social/behavioral sciences. Special emphasis will be given to equip the **ASCEND Scholars** with higher-order reasoning skills, to increase students' mathematical and communication skills, and to expose them to the latest technologies in the sciences. Each student will prepare an individual development plan with the program directors and receive training tailored to their individual graduate training goals.



Student Research Center



The **Student Research Center (SRC)** is a vibrant and welcoming environment designed to enhance health research activities through state-of-the-art technology and equipment. Run by students and for students, with support and guidance from faculty and staff, it is a place to exchange health research ideas while surrounded by peers and near-peer mentors.

The Student Research Center acts as the hub for ASCEND and its various components. Here, connections among students interested in health research are strengthened, and opportunities for career development are explored with mentors and faculty.

Learn more at:
www.morgan.edu/ASCEND

ASCEND is one of ten programs funded by the National Institutes of Health's Building Infrastructure Leading to Diversity (BUILD) Initiative.