

The background of the slide features a cosmic scene with a field of stars and a large, reddish-orange planet, likely Mars, on the right side. The text is overlaid on this background.

# Minority Institution Research Support (MIRS) Program History

2002 - the **Minority Institution Research Support (MIRS) program** was started by the NAI.

The objectives of the program are:

- 1) to increase the number of faculty from Minority Serving Institutions (MSIs) who are actively and competitively engaged in astrobiology research and related pursuits
- 2) to increase the number of students from underrepresented groups who successfully pursue careers in astrobiology.



# MIRS Program History

## 2 of 2

2002 – 2005 - developed and managed by an NAI staff member

2005 – proposal from Tennessee State University, an HBCU, managed the program through 2010

2010 – MIRS Cooperative Agreement Notice

2011 – 2013 the United Negro College Fund Special Program Corporation was selected under a 4-year agreement. In 2013. UNCF-SP had financial difficulties and was forced to close in late 2013.

NAI Central has managed the program since January 2014.



# MIRS Program

The program provides for:

- a stipend for up to 10 weeks
- travel and lodging support
- an optional award following the sabbatical, intended to support continuing the research and involving students, and/or develop astrobiology laboratories or curriculum at the home institution.



## MIRS Status

As of summer 2017, the MIRS Program has supported 30 faculty members from Minority Serving Institutions (MSIs) to participate in astrobiology research

Of the 30 MIRS Fellows, 20 were faculty at Historically Black Colleges and Universities, 8 at Hispanic Serving Institutions, and two at Native Serving Institutions. The Fellows have remained engaged, some for over 10 years, and would all likely welcome an opportunity to re-propose.

# MIRS Faculty and Hosts, 1 of 2

Name	Home Institution	Host	Host Institution	Year	CAN/Exo
Peter Azah Abanda	Mid-South Community College	Lee Bebout	ARC	2014	Exo
Abel Mendez	U Puerto Rico Arecibo	Chris McKay	ARC	2007	3 NASA ARC
Jean-Marie (John) Dimandja	Spelman College	George Cooper	ARC	2014	Exo
Lewis Myles	TSU	Jack Farmer	ASU	2003	1 ASU
Rakesh Mogul	Cal State Pomona	Rachel Mackelprang	Cal St Northridge	2016	Exo
Mohammad Mahmood	Howard U	Andrew Steele	CIW	2002	1 CIW
Marcus Alfred	Howard University	Paul Butler	CIW	2014	5 CIW
Yassin Jeilani	Spelman College	Michael Callahan	GSFC	2015	5 GCA
Donald Walter	S. Carolina State	Mike Mumma	GSFC	2007	3 GCA
Hany Sobhi	Coppin State U	Natasha Johnson	GSFC	2012	5 GCA
Prabhakar Misra	Howard U	Paul Mahaffy	GSFC	2008 2012	3 GCA 5 GCA
Yousef Hijji	Morgan State	Paul Mahaffy	GSFC	2011	5 GCA
Guillermo Nery	U Puerto Rico Arecibo	Laurie Barge/Michael Russell	JPL	2016	7 JPL
Tina Salmassi	Cal State, LA	Kasthuri J. Venkateswaran	JPL	2010	PP
Mamta Rawat	Cal State, Fresno	Kasthuri J. Venkateswaran	JPL	2011	PP
Rakesh Mogul	Cal State Pomona	Kasthuri J. Venkateswaran	JPL	2009	PP

# MIRS Faculty and Hosts, 2 of 2

Name	Home Institution	Host	Host Institution	Year	CAN/Exo
Lekan Latinwo	Florida A&M	Michael Thomashow	Michigan State U	2002	2 Mich St
Don Benn	U Montana/Navajo Tech College	Martin Lawrence	Montana State	2010	4 Mich St
Michael Ceballos	Salish Kootenai College	Ken Stedman	Portland State U	2006	3 ARC
Pablo Suarez	Delaware State	Wayne Roberge	RPI	2013	5 RPI
Alan Anderson	Bowie State U	Ram Krishnamurthy	Scripps	2013	Exo
Anne Osano	Bowie State	Alfonso Davila	SETI Institute	2013	Exo
Erik Melchiorre	Cal State San Bernardino	Karen Meech	U Hawaii	2008	3 U Hawaii
James Wachira	Morgan State University	George Fox	U Houston	2014	5 GTech
Tiffany Oliver	Spelman College	George Fox	U Houston	2013	5 Ctech
Hemayet Ullah	Howard University	Shiliditya DasSarma	U Md Medical School	2016	Exo
Joseph Onyilagha	U Arkansas, Pine Bluff	Steve Freeland	U MD, Baltimore	2013	5 U Hawaii
Genet Duke	NE Illinois U	John Valley	U Wisc	2011	4 U Wisc
Aaron Cavosie	U Puerto Rico, Mayaguez	John W. Valley	U Wisc	2009	4 U Wisc
Todd Gary	Tennessee State U	Jim Lake	UCLA	2002	1 UCLA
Lee Anne Martinez (over 2 yrs)	Colorado State, Pueblo	Jim Lake	UCLA	2007 2008	3 UCLA
Erik Melchiorre	Cal State San Bernardino	Tim Lyons	UCR	2015	7 UC Riverside
Tyrell Carr	Saint Augustine's University	Donald Burke	Univ of Missouri, Columbia	2017	Exo



