

Howard University and Laurinburg Institute Offers a High Quality Science, Technology, Engineering, Math (STEM) & Language Arts at Laurinburg Institute.

Laurinburg Institute of Laurinburg, North Carolina and the Capstone Institute at Howard University of Washington, D.C., have formed a partnership and collaboration to establish and advance a high quality Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics and Language Arts (STEM & LA) focused program housed on the Institute's historic campus. This program is aimed at high school and high school postgraduate students. Laurinburg, founded in 1904, is the oldest of the four remaining historically Black boarding secondary schools in the United States.

The Institute has graduated the likes of Dizzy Gillespie, Sir. John Swann (1st Black Premier of Bermuda), Dr. Joy Johnson (NC General Assembly) and NBA Hall of Famers Sam Jones, and Charlie Scott. Laurinburg Institute was recognized by the United States House of Representative in H.R. 660, which passed on October 21, 2009, for its distinguished services and contributions to the State of North Carolina and the nation.

This project will enhance the Institute's current curriculum while providing a STEM & Language Arts focus, provide professional development to the STEM & Language Arts teachers and all other core course teachers, and enhance academic skills for the students in all of their core courses while paying particular attention to their STEM courses. This program will also highlight the development of the whole learner. Activities are planned which promote the learners' developmental experiences and further expanding their social and cultural horizons through career awareness and exploration. Students will also matriculate through a rigorous SAT preparation curriculum.

Howard University's Capstone Institute's mission is to formulate, implement, research, evaluate and disseminate comprehensive school reform and school improvement initiatives according to a Talent Development model of schooling - which was developed by Capstones' Dr. Wade Boykin. Capstone will conduct a comprehensive needs assessment at the outset of this project in order to maximize the assets brought to bear through the Capstone/Laurinburg collaboration. Additionally, support will be provided as feedback, coordination, and assistance to Laurinburg Institute's administrators, staff and teachers for managing other school improvement

activities. An extensive evaluation will be implemented, along with a curriculum audit and ultimately an alignment of the current curriculum in use at Laurinburg Institute as it relates to the Southern Association for Independent Schools (SAIS) standards. Laurinburg Institute's educational efforts will be examined by an evaluation team from Howard's Capstone Institute and their major goals are to: (a) evaluate and upgrade the Institute's current curriculum; (b) prepare its current teachers to better teach their respective core courses; and (c) provide for the student's academic support in the areas of remediation, acceleration, and/or reinforcement for all courses and particularly in the STEM & Language Arts fields.

Heading the partnership and collaboration development is Dr. A. Wade Boykin, Professor and Director of the Graduate Program in the Department of Psychology at Howard University. Dr. Boykin received his Ph.D. in experimental psychology from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. Before coming to Howard in 1980, he was a tenured Associate Professor of Psychology at Cornell University, Ithaca, NY. In addition, Dr. Boykin served on the President's National Mathematics Advisory Panel advising the President and the Secretary of Education with respect to the conduct, evaluation, and effective use of the results of research relating to proven, evidence-based mathematics instruction in order to foster greater knowledge of, and improved performance in, mathematics among American students. Dr. Boykin says, "Our program is committed to enhancing, augmenting, and boosting the academic and life opportunities for our students. Through intensive support in the areas of: professional development training for teachers and staff; curriculum audit and alignment, as well as evidenced based academic support components, the Laurinburg Institute Model will offer a program suitable for National replication".