

IST/HBCU Symposium Cancelled

Lincoln University is one of the founding HBCU member institutions of the HBCU Consortium organized by Penn State. This group aims to provide underrepresented students with increased educational and internship opportunities in a wide variety of STEM fields related to information science and technology (IST). Dr. Zachary Carson, the DMS lab assistant, represented Lincoln University at the consortium's inaugural symposium meeting last year. Dr. Carson has since represented our department in monthly meetings with symposium members and planned to attend the second annual IST/HBCU Symposium this month.

Unfortunately, the COVID-19 epidemic has forced campus closures across the nation. In addition to the myriad travel restrictions that would already have threatened any event of this size, Pennsylvania State University, which was scheduled to host the IST/HBCU Symposium, closed its campus last month to ensure the safety of its community. Because of this, the second annual IST/HBCU Symposium was regrettably cancelled.

As a founding member, Lincoln University remains committed to the success of the HBCU Consortium. Through the efforts of its member institutions, several DMS students have already received exciting internship and graduate educational opportunities. Our department will continue to work with the HBCU Consortium to expand these and other opportunities for students across all of its member institutions.

DMS Continues to Deliver Quality Instruction During COVID-19

Following our transition to remote instruction last month, the Department of Mathematical Sciences continues to deliver high-quality instruction for all of its courses. We have crafted our courses to adapt to the evolving needs of our community, including those students who are facing unexpected challenges at home. Our department remains committed to serving all of our students to the best of our abilities.

Thanks to the rapid response of all DMS faculty and staff, we have developed the tools and training to deliver our course instruction in a manner that maximally accommodates students' needs. All MAT courses are accessible through the use of only a smart phone with internet browser and free Zoom app. In addition, course content is recorded and made available online for students to access at any time. Course instructors continue to hold regular live lectures and office hours, but also have the tools to engage students in live video sessions at any time, allowing them greater ability to accommodate changes in students' schedules. These efforts ensure that our department can continue to engage our students safely and effectively throughout this crisis.

In addition to its course developments, the department has also managed to restore full operation to the Math Learning Center. MLC student tutors are able to host live tutoring sessions over Zoom where students can connect with video and shared whiteboards to receive support in all of their mathematics courses. With several student tutors employed, the MLC is able to offer a wide range of night and weekend hours to better serve our students. This important resources supplements our commitment to flexibility by ensuring that any student whose scheduling needs cannot be met by their course instructor has an alternative source of support in their studies.

The department would also like to recognize the commitment and dedication of our students, who have remained engaged in their education despite these unexpected changes. None of our students registered for classes online this semester, yet they have adapted to the situation and continue to view their lectures, perform homework and other assignments, and engage their professors with questions and feedback.