

A COE Network Approach to Workforce Development

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The Workforce Development Initiative led by Jackson State University in partnership with Rutgers University and East Carolina University as part of the South East Region Research Initiative consists of two components. The first addresses expanding the capacity of educators of the current workforce to rapidly deploy STEM materials developed by DHS University Centers of Excellence (COE). The second component addresses the building of capacity of educators of the future workforce to rapidly deploy developmentally appropriate STEM modules at the frontier of Science and Technology. The pilot activity is on Avian Influenza. The participating Mississippi Educational Institutions are Jackson State University and Alcorn State University while the participating COE are Foreign Animals & Zoonotic Diseases (FAZD) at University of California, Davis (UC) and DIMACS at Rutgers University. The UC Davis FAZD will upgrade the Flu School course and conduct the course in Mississippi. Faculty at Jackson State and Alcorn State will identify courses at their institutions that can incorporate the Flu School elements; incorporate these into courses and deliver them to the current workforce. DIMACS and ECU will develop and conduct biological- and mathematics-based problem solving and critical thinking programs at JSU that will have a significant Avian Influenza component, designed to be replicable throughout the 80 DHS Centers of Excellence.