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MEMORANDUM

TO: MLDS Governing Board

FROM: Ross Goldstein, Executive Director

DATE: March 5, 2021

SUBJECT: Morgan State University - Research Partnership

Purpose

The purpose of this agenda item is to inform the Board on progress towards establishing a research partnership with Morgan State University. The partnership will increase the Center's research capacity and diversify its expertise. State agencies that have interagency agreements with institutions of higher education are required to meet a HBCU participation goal, which this partnership will fulfill.

Background

Dr. Henneberger led the Center's efforts to reach out to faculty at Morgan State University with the goal of solidifying a research partnership between the Center, the Research Branch, and Morgan State. Through this collaboration, the Center will increase the diversity of experience, backgrounds, and skill sets applied to MLDS Center research, complementing the existing team.

The advantages to Morgan State include access to the data system for research conducted by faculty, staff, and graduate students. Dr. Henneberger is in the midst of conversations with the Dean and faculty members in the <u>School of Education and Urban Studies</u>, and together they are collaborating on a MOU and scope of work to formalize the partnership. Additionally, Dr. Henneberger has spoken to faculty members in multiple schools and departments about the possibility of collaborations on current and future National Science Foundation grant submissions.

The plan is to fully integrate the Morgan researchers into the Research Branch. Research projects would receive full collaboration and support from the Center and the Research Branch. Morgan researchers will also be available to provide their expertise on new and ongoing initiatives of the Center.

Action

Information only.