

*Building an 1890 Virtual Network*

Full SteAm Ahead!

# STEM becomes SteAm for 1890s

- Phase 1: TIP grant submitted to NSF for Alcorn State Univ
- Phase 2: Collaborating on planning grant to support network

## OVERAL GOAL

*Improve academic success and retention rate of first year students enrolled in STEM courses*

# Phase 1: TIP grant proposal

- Redesign of gateway courses into blended format
- Faculty development and incentives
- Chose 3 courses for initial pilot
  - Intermediate Algebra
  - Intro to Soils
  - Intro to Environmental Science

# Phase 1 (cont'd)

- 8 person writing team
  - Dept. chair
  - 3 faculty
  - Program evaluator
  - Administrator
  - Staff/IT support
  - External consultant

# Phase 1 (cont'd)

- Evaluation Strategy
  - Use multiple sections of each course
  - Compare course data of blended to traditional classes
  - Use both qualitative and quantitative methods
  - Evaluate data over a 3 year time span

# Phase 1: Broad Impacts

- Improve retention and DFW rates for freshmen
- Increase numbers of minority graduates pursuing STEM careers
- Improve faculty development
- Improve academic success of historically underserved and underrepresented minority students

# Phase 2: Expansion planning

- Using lessons learned from Phase 1, seek funding to plan HBCU network for 2+2 online degree completion
- Partners include:
  - University of MD, Eastern Shore
  - Delaware State University
  - Southern University
  - Alcorn State University/Coahoma Community College

# Phase 2: Expansion Planning

- Planning grant funds will support:
  - Needs assessments (retention rates, market potential, technology infrastructure, faculty development)
  - Building support from top academic leadership
  - Developing policies and contractual agreements to allow credit transfer, online registrations
  - Selection of courses, participating faculty, and community college partner
  - Faculty development planning
  - Planning for program evaluation