



Morgan State University Convening Summary

The STEM Opportunity Alliance and our host, Morgan State University, held an inaugural convening on Achieving STEM Equity and Excellence in Postsecondary Education on February 24, 2023. The convening featured facilitated workshops that provided participants the opportunity to participate in the co-construction of a shared National Strategy for STEM Equity and Excellence, with a particular eye towards goals and strategies that will inspire progress within the postsecondary field.

Maryland's Lieutenant Governor, Aruna Miller, provided the keynote address, speaking to her personal story as an immigrant and noting her commitment to confronting structural imbalances in STEM as a policymaker. She shared that highlighting, elevating, and recruiting people of color and women with STEM backgrounds is a key priority for her administration.

The event's facilitated workshops leveraged a draft discussion paper developed by SOA – a strawman framework for a National Strategy on STEM Equity and Excellence – and aimed to amend and iterate on this framework with input and ideas from key experts and stakeholders. These workshops focused discussion in three key areas:

- **Higher Education's Role in the STEM Ecosystem:** This conversation focused on higher education's responsibilities in STEM education. Key themes included the need for institutions to name equity as an explicit goal, and the potential for reinventing STEM curriculum to be more flexible, open, and inclusive.
- **Equitable Access to Higher Education:** This discussion focused on how to provide more equitable access for underrepresented groups. Key themes included the need to better document and assess strategies underway today, to find what is working best, and to identify strategies that should be implemented on a broader scale, to address the affordability challenge, and to promote the value of shifting the public dialogue.
- **Research Funding Gaps and Infrastructure & Support for Minority Serving Institutions (MSIs):** This conversation centered on how to close research funding gaps for MSIs and researchers from underrepresented groups. Key themes included the need for better access to capital from the broadest range of potential funding sources, including via a focus on different approaches to capacity building at MSIs and partner institutions.

What's to Come:

This event was just the first in a series of events this year focused on different sectors and regions, with a goal of reaching stakeholders from all parts of the U.S. STEMM ecosystem. Subsequent events will focus on K-12 education, research infrastructure, workforce, industry, and informal education and community science. The series will include stops in New York, Florida, Chicago, Texas, California, Idaho, and more, with diverse hosts and participants. We hope all partners will play a role in helping to co-construct this shared national strategy.

By Fall, our team will circulate a refined National Strategy for STEMM Equity and Excellence based on the collective input and feedback received through this process. That document will then undergo a formal public review – giving all partners further opportunity to help hone and refine the strategy, and, ultimately, to sign on to the strategy with a formal commitment of support and action.