



Michelle Penn-Marshall, PhD
Vice President of Research and Innovation
Texas Southern University

Dr. Michelle Penn-Marshall is the inaugural Vice President of Research and Innovation (DRI) at Texas Southern University (TSU). DRI was established in March 2022 and since its inception research expenditures have increased by 32.3%, funding requests by 90%, and funding received by 40%. Dr. Penn-Marshall received the B.A. (scientific curriculum) and M.S. in biology with a concentration in environmental science from Hampton University (HU). She received her Ph.D. in community nutrition from the Department of Human Nutrition, Foods, and Exercise at Virginia Tech. As a graduate student at HU, she received a fellowship from the Environmental Protection Agency to study water quality research. Her dissertation received a national award from the American Association of Higher Education Black Caucus for her study on the effects of resistant starch on African Americans at increased risk for Type 2 Diabetes.

Her grantsmanship spans a broad array of disciplines, with funding support from various federal agencies and corporations, such as the National Institutes of Health, National Science Foundation, National Library of Medicine, Toyota, and Dominion Energy, just to name a few. She received funding to award scholarships to nursing majors who earned bachelor's degrees in other disciplines from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. As a result, recruitment, retention, and graduation rates of baccalaureate prepared nurses increased. At the onset of the pandemic, through donations from Thermo Fisher Scientific and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, she created a state-of-the-art molecular testing laboratory and with assistance from colleagues in the Schools of Pharmacy and Nursing designed a state-of-the-art mobile health unit. Additionally, she led efforts to provide several vaccination clinics for the citizens of Hampton Roads, Virginia.

She has also served as co-PI for the Maximizing Access to Research Careers (MARC) and the Undergraduate Research Training Initiative for Student Enhancement (U-RISE), both designed to expand the number of underrepresented minorities in STEM who earn the PhD or MD/PhD. For the past eight years she served as the project coordinator for the Washington Baltimore Hampton Roads – Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation (WBHR-LSAMP), with Howard University (lead) and Morgan State University. WBHR-LSAMP addresses the dearth of black, indigenous, and other people of color (BIPOC) in STEM by increasing the number of BIPOC undergraduate student researchers in STEM. As a result of this 25-year alliance, more than 30,000

WBHR-LSAMP students earned BS degrees, 3,335 earned MS degrees and 965 earned PhD degrees in STEM fields.

In addition to her work with undergraduate students, she is also a strong supporter of graduate education and faculty development. She was appointed to the National Council of Graduate Schools Advisory Committee on Advocacy and Public Policy for the Council of Graduate Schools and served as the Co-PI for the Howard Hampton Morgan State (HHMS) Alliances for Graduate Education and the Professoriate (AGEP) Alliance. She was a member of the National Science Foundation and American Association of Colleges and Universities Cohort III, where she and other administrators from institutions across the U.S. worked collaboratively to Prepare Critical Faculty for the Future. Further, she currently serves as the Co-PI with colleagues from the University of Houston (lead) and nine other institutions, where external review letters are reviewed for validity and fairness in the promotion and tenure decision making process. Funding support for these projects are provided by the Sloan and the National Science Foundations.

Dr. Penn-Marshall is the Vice-Chair of the Science and Technology Universities Space Research Association Historically Black Colleges and Universities Space Council and is a member of numerous honor societies, civic and community organizations. She was recently appointed to the Springer Nature Research Advisory Council. She is the proud native of Surry County, Virginia and mother of two daughters, Lauren and Ivana.