

# North Carolina Independent Colleges and Universities

North Carolina Independent Colleges and Universities received \$ 240,000 payable over three years to launch their new Faculty-Student STEM Mentoring Program. This 2021 Traditional grant encouraged underrepresented students to pursue STEM education majors.

*Providing mentors to encourage students often helps the student build their confidence, enhances their learning and provides insights into needed resources available for the student.*

NCICU worked with twelve institutions to build this mentoring program; including the 5 HBCU's in their network. Program participants at the twelve institutions will be recruited from underrepresented students including women, minorities, first-generation and Pell eligible students. Special emphasis will be placed on mentoring students struggling with gateway courses; Calculus I and II, and Chemistry I. Mentor groups will be developed to meet every two weeks with a peer mentor and a faculty member. Guest speakers will also be recruited to provide diverse role models for students. Career workshops and peer connections are also components of the program and students will be encouraged to build their network with their peers in similar majors. This mentoring program has the potential to impact 240 STEM majors over 3 years.