



**12th Annual Virginia–North Carolina
Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation Retreat
Monday, March 29, 2021
Hosted Virtually by Johnson C. Smith University**



<p><u>9:00 am – 9:15 am</u></p>	<p align="center">LSAMP Opening Ceremony and Welcoming Remarks</p> <p><u>Audience: All</u></p> <p>Speakers: Dr. Sunil Gupta, <i>Program Director of JCSU-LSAMP, Johnson C. Smith University</i></p> <p>Dr. Vijaya Gompa, <i>Dean of College of STEM, Johnson C. Smith University;</i> and</p> <p>Dr. Kevin McDonald, <i>Principal Investigator and Vice President for Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Community Partnerships, University of Virginia.</i></p>
<p><u>9:15 am – 10:30 am</u></p>	<p align="center">Session One Breakout Rooms</p> <p><u>Audience: Students and Guests</u></p> <p>Panel moderators: Dr. Brian Hunt, <i>Associate Professor of Mathematics</i> and Ms. Dana Battle, <i>Undergraduate Student, Johnson C. Smith University</i></p> <p>Coping with the Pandemic as a Student followed by Graduate School and Industry Opportunities (9:15 am – 9:55 am)</p> <p>Panelists: Dr. Siddhi Gupta, <i>Infectious Disease Physician, Novant Healthcare, Charlotte, NC;</i> and</p> <p>Ms. Paulette Plummer, <i>Licensed Clinical Social Worker and Executive Director at Cathartic Counseling Services, Charlotte, NC.</i></p> <p>Graduate School and Industry Recruiters (10:00 am – 10:30 am)</p> <p>Panelists: Ms. Sandra Penaherrera, <i>United States Department of Energy;</i> and</p> <p>Dr. Joe Pitula, <i>University of Maryland Eastern Shore.</i></p>
	<p><u>Audience: Alliance Project Directors/Staff</u></p> <p>VA–NC Alliance Partner Meeting</p>
<p><u>10:30 am – 10:45 am</u></p>	<p align="center">Break (agenda continued on next page)</p>



**12th Annual Virginia–North Carolina
Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation Retreat
Monday, March 29, 2021
Hosted Virtually by Johnson C. Smith University**



<p>10:45 am – 11:45 am</p>	<p align="center">Session Two Breakout Rooms</p> <p>Audience: Students and Guests Panel moderator: Dr. Ahmed Faik, <i>Interim Chair of the Department of Computer Science, Johnson C. Smith University</i></p> <p>VA–NC Alliance Alumni Pathways to Excellence in STEM Panelists: Mr. Chiron Anderson, <i>Iowa State University</i>; Mr. David Gonzalez, <i>University of Pennsylvania</i>; Ms. Briana James, <i>Virginia Commonwealth University</i>; Dr. Corey Johnson, <i>University of North Carolina at Asheville</i>; Mr. Bernard Smith, <i>Microsoft</i>; and Ms. Alia Wofford, <i>Howard University</i>.</p>
	<p>Audience: Faculty/Staff Introduction to the Inclusive Excellence Framework Dr. Kevin G. McDonald, <i>Principal Investigator and Vice President for Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Community Partnerships, University of Virginia</i>; and Mx. Rachel Spraker, <i>Senior Director for Equity and Inclusive Excellence, University of Virginia</i>.</p>
<p>11:45 am – 12:00 pm</p>	<p align="center">Break</p>
<p>12:00 pm – 12:30 pm</p>	<p align="center">Distinguished Speaker</p> <p>Introduction: Ms. Mattie Marshall, <i>Program Coordinator, Johnson C. Smith University</i> Remarks: Ms. Joan Higginbotham, <i>Astronaut and Engineer, NASA</i> Biography: Ms. Joan Higginbotham graduated from Whitney M. Young Magnet High School, Chicago, Illinois, in 1982. She earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Electrical Engineering from Southern Illinois University at Carbondale in 1987, a Master’s Degree of Management from Florida Institute of Technology in 1992, and a Master’s in Space Systems from Florida Institute of Technology in 1996.</p>
<p>12:30 pm – 12:45 pm</p>	<p align="center">Closing Remarks</p> <p>Ms. Kristin Morgan, <i>Program Director, VA–NC Alliance</i>; and Mr. Maurice Walker, <i>Program Coordinator, VA–NC Alliance</i>.</p>