

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

**NRC Science Scholars: Education, Scholarship, Mentoring, Service Learning  
Xavier University, LA.**

**Budget Requested: \$270,000 for three years.**

*PI: Anderson Sunda-Meya;*

*Co-PI: Freddie Landry, Dean Richardson, Frank Wesselmann*

The NRC Science Research Scholars program to be established in the Department of Physics at Xavier University of Louisiana will support ten (10) economically disadvantaged and talented scholars in physics, chemistry, mathematics, and in the Dual Degree engineering program: civil engineering/physics, electrical engineering/physics, mechanical engineering/physics, and chemical engineering/chemistry. The NRC Scholars program will blend scholarships, curricular refinements, mentoring, and support activities designed to attract, retain and graduate more African American students in science, mathematics and engineering. The amount of each scholarship is up to \$5000 per year for a 4-year period. The primary objectives of this project are: 1) provide financial support for talented and economically disadvantaged African-American students in STEM; 2) identify the special needs of these students and provide academic support to them in the form of supplemental math and science courses, faculty and peer mentoring, student/faculty research opportunities, attending technical and scientific workshops and independent study opportunities; 3) provide the NRC scholars with solid career counseling that includes preparation for graduate schools, service learning opportunities, research and internship employment opportunities in national need areas, and effective employment strategies such as resume writing and interviewing skills; and 4) address the local educational needs through service learning.

This program will build upon student support structures developed by our successful STEM Bridge Program that aims to create a seamless transition to university life for a group of incoming freshman STEM majors during a four-week program. Students are encouraged to take part in summer research experiences after their first and second years.

The goal of the program is to increase the number of students from underrepresented groups who complete the baccalaureate degree program in a STEM science.