

Morgan State University Announces NSF CyberCorps Scholarships for Service in Secure Embedded Systems

► **BALTIMORE** – We live in a world of connected embedded systems, from smart cars to smart home environments that we interact with daily. Unfortunately, these devices are the constant target of exploitation by hackers who threaten our critical infrastructures. To help address this problem, Morgan State University (MSU) will provide 24 students with a unique educational program employing an innovative curriculum in secure embedded systems that integrates active learning experiences, mentoring and research.

The Secure Embedded Systems Scholarship (SES2) is a recruitment, mentoring and financial support program for students pursuing BS, MS and Ph.D. degrees with a keen interest in cybersecurity. The SES2 program will enhance MSU's strategic vision of preparing a diverse workforce that can meet the government's cybersecurity

workforce needs and help to protect our nation's critical infrastructures. Currently, MSU has two inaugural SES2 Ph.D. scholars: Shelaniece Clash and Rachida Kone, both in the ECE department at Morgan State University.

The Cybersecurity Assurance & Policy (CAP) Center at MSU is an NSA National Center of Academic Excellence in cyber defense education. The CAP Center is a university-wide research center that spans several schools at MSU. It has several academic program offerings in cybersecurity, including a Master of Engineering in Cybersecurity Engineering (MECE), Doctor of Engineering (DEN), and MS and Ph.D. degrees in Secure Embedded Systems. Contact LaDawn Partlow at LaDawn.Biddle@morgan.edu for more information or to apply.

STEM Funders Network Focuses on Equitable Education Trajectories and Economic Mobility for the Vulnerable and Marginalized

► **CLEVELAND** – Natural and man-made disasters cause both short-term and long-term disruption, displacement and loss. As a result, the STEM Funders Network (SFN) is responding by not only focusing on short-term responses but also on long-term impact. As a network of education philanthropists, SFN recognizes the interdependencies of the long-term effects of a disaster's disturbance, displacement and loss on a student's educational trajectory and ultimate economic mobility.

Therefore, as we transition out of the last two years and look ahead, SFN will encourage STEM funders to invest in opportunities that cultivate

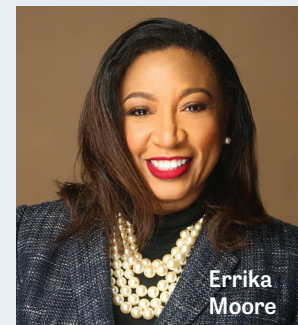
empowered and informed global digital citizens who can help address challenges like climate change, environmental injustice, natural disasters, global diseases and economic crises through equitable access to STEM learning experiences. This approach will help to solve tomorrow's challenges, particularly as existing systemic disparities and inequities in education and economic mobility are exacerbated.

Errika Moore, SFN's executive director, shared, "As we launch into 2022, we recognize that the future, growth and stability of our national economy depends on the decisions we make today to address

historical disparities and mitigate future inequities. The attack of these ominous disasters may appear to be 'colorblind.' But the residual effects are definitely color specific."

Past experiences have convinced SFN that the organization must play a definitive role in the intersectionality of STEM learning experiences and the forward trajectory and economic mobility of those within their reach. SFN recommends the following strategies:

- Listen to diverse leaders in impacted communities for what they need.
- Collaborate with other funders to support extended solutions generated by



community leaders that create multigenerational impact.

- Invest in long-term solutions that address system change and social justice knowing it will take time to see results.
- Advocate for federal resources to invest in multi-year community recovery strategies.