From Morehouse College to Morgan State: We C.A.R.E. – An emphasis on Recruitment/Retention/Research/Resources of 1st & 2nd year majors

Willie S. Rockward, Ph.D.
Department of Physics & Engineering Physics, Morgan State University, Baltimore, MD

ABSTRACT
Growing the physics major at any institution, especially Morgan State University (MSU) – a public, urban, Research II, HBCU institution, can be extremely challenging. To address this challenge at MSU, I am applying a modified version of the methodology and pedagogical approach that I used at Morehouse College called “We C.A.R.E” which stands for Curriculum, Advisement, Recruitment/Retention/Research/Resources, and Extras. This approach utilizes an integrated strategy of cultural (family-orientated), collaborative (shared-governance), and career (personalized-pathways) modalities to provide the momentum of growing the physics major. During my 7-year tenure as department chair at Morehouse, we increased our graduation from 10 students in 2011 to 22 students in 2018. Thus, a detailed overview of the modified version of the “We C.A.R.E.” approach will be presented along with an emphasis on recruitment and retention of 1st and 2nd year physics & engineering physics majors at MSU.