

**PROJECT UPDATE**  
**Partnerships for Emerging Research Institutions**

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**PROJECT BACKGROUND:** The project was conducted under the oversight of the Policy and Global Affairs Division, in collaboration with the National Academy of Engineering Standing Committee on Diversity in the Engineering Workforce. The idea grew out of conversations with representatives from minority institutions and members of the Federal Demonstration Partnership (FDP) with low research activity expressing concern about how to promote high quality research within these institutions. An advisory committee, consisting of FDP members and university representatives, was formed to conceptualize a workshop to examine the barriers institutions face in developing robust research enterprises and to present solutions to remedy the problems identified. An ad hoc committee was appointed to plan a workshop on partnering arrangements for emerging research institutions (ERIs).

For the purposes of the project and consistency in discussion, ERIs are defined as master's colleges and universities, baccalaureate colleges, and tribal colleges according to the 2005 Carnegie classification system. Constituting one-third of all U.S. institutions of higher education, ERIs are crucial to sustaining the nation's technological competitiveness through innovation and workforce development.

**SUMMARY STATUS:**

The workshop entitled "Partnerships for Emerging Research Institutions" was held on September 13-14, 2007. The presentations and discussion highlighted barriers that emerging research institutions face as well as strategies for overcoming those barriers. These include limited faculty time, limited institutional resources and fragile infrastructure, and inadequate faculty reward system. Presenters cited research attesting to the impact of research on student achievement noting the difference in undergraduate retention, persistence in the discipline, and matriculation to graduate school at institutions where research was prevalent. The workshop culminated in a roadmapping session for ERIs to begin transforming their campuses to become more research intensive.

The report was approved for publication in December 2008 and released for dissemination on January 12, 2009. It can be found at [http://www.nap.edu/catalog.php?record\\_id=12577](http://www.nap.edu/catalog.php?record_id=12577).