

Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) Clean Energy Education Prize: Official Rules

Inspire, Initiate, Integrate



May 2023

Preface

The U.S. Department of Energy's Historically Black Colleges and Universities Clean Energy Education Prize will be governed by 15 U.S.C. § 3719 and this Official Rules document. This is not a procurement under the Federal Acquisitions Regulation and will not result in a grant or cooperative agreement under 2 CFR 200. The Prize Administrator reserves the right to modify this Official Rules document if necessary and will publicly post any such notifications and notify registered prize participants.

Date	Modification
02/14/2024	Updated eligibility requirements and general conditions appendix to comply with the U.S. Department of Energy's Office of Research, Technology, and Economic Security standards.
09/21/2023	Updated deadlines for Inspire and Partnerships Tracks.
06/29/2023	Added rules for the Partnerships Track.

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Executive Summary

The U.S. Department of Energy's (DOEs) Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) Clean Energy Education Prize aims to advance clean energy programming opportunities and connections for historically Black colleges including:

- Inspiring K-12 and community college students to engage with and learn about clean energy subjects through HBCU-hosted educational programs
- Initiating partnerships between HBCUs and other universities with proven clean energy focused programs to build new cross-university degree and certificate programs
- Integrating and building programming between university and industry partners to advance career opportunities for HBCU students in the clean energy space.

The Prize: Two Tracks

The HBCU Clean Energy Education Prize offers two distinct tracks—each with two different phases—that allow HBCUs of all sizes to compete for prize money. In total, up to \$7.75 million will be awarded across both tracks and all four phases.

Inspire Track: Inspiring Students To Pursue Clean Energy Careers through HBCU Programming

Total Prize Pool: \$1,000,000

Number of Winners: up to 20

The Inspire Track focuses on building summer programs or other programming at HBCUs during academic breaks to inspire youth—especially from diverse and underserved and underrepresented communities—to pursue careers in STEM and clean energy. The programs may last 1–6 weeks and will focus on K-12 and/or community college students.

In Phase 1 of the Inspire Track, HBCUs will work to develop a strong educational plan that describes the plan of action, including proposed timing, partners, program goals, number of students served, and ages of students served, for example. Up to 20 winning HBCUs from Phase 1 will receive \$40,000 each and will continue into the second phase of the Inspire Track.

In Phase 2 of this track, winning HBCUs from Phase 1 will get a chance to continue to develop their program plans, further implement the programs, and provide initial metrics that showcase program impact, number of students who participated in the program, success stories, lessons learned, and more. All winning HBCUs from Phase 1 are potentially eligible to win in Phase 2, but teams must provide complete documentation through the submission process for Phase 2 and must demonstrate significant progress toward meeting the goals outlined in the planning documents provided in Phase 1. Up to 20 winning HBCUs will receive an additional \$10,000 in Phase 2.

Key dates for the Inspire Track are:

- **Inspire Phase 1 Launches:** May 8, 2023
- **Inspire Phase 1 Submissions Due:** Aug. 24, 2023
- **Inspire Phase 1 Winners Announced:** Oct. 5, 2023
- **Inspire Phase 2 Submissions Due:** June 4, 2024
- **Inspire Phase 2 Winners Announced:** July 2024 (anticipated).

Partnerships Track: Collaborating To Help HBCU Students Succeed in Clean Energy Education and Careers

Total Prize Pool: \$6,750,000

Number of Winners: up to 10 in Phase 1, Up to 10 in Phase 2, and up to 3 in Phase 3

The Partnerships Track focuses on forming partnerships between HBCUs and other universities, institutions, government agencies, and industry in the clean energy space. Through these partnerships, collaborative teams will work to develop programs that will enhance opportunities for HBCU students, advance educational opportunities, and expand career opportunities.

In Phase 1 of this track, HBCUs will initiate partnerships between their educational institutions and partner universities, government agencies, and industry in the clean energy space in an effort to build long-standing partnerships that will result in HBCU programming and educational opportunities for undergraduate and graduate students. Teams will develop plans of action, provide proof of partnership commitments, describe the goals, provide plans for hiring and developing new programming at the HBCU or partner institution, and describe the benefits that the new partnerships and programming will provide to the HBCU and its students. This Phase will have a prize pool of \$1,000,000 and up to 10 winning HBCUs will be awarded a prize of \$100,000 each and will be eligible to compete in Phase 2 of this program.

In Phase 2 of this track, each winning HBCU from Phase 1 will continue to compete, advance its partnership plans, and build a cohesive program that will directly benefit HBCU students. Potentially all Phase 2 participating HBCUs can win prize funding in this round. This round will be focused on building lasting partnerships, programming, curricula, and engagement mechanisms that will be sustainable and provide lasting benefits to current and future HBCU students. Phase 2 will last approximately 5 months to give the HBCUs and their partners ample time to plan programs that will successfully provide HBCU students education and paths to careers in clean energy technologies. All 10 winners from Phase 1 may be eligible to win additional prize funding in Phase 2. To be awarded additional funding in Phase 2, HBCU teams must provide strong evidence that substantial progress has been made toward developing programs, leveraging curricula, hiring staff, building a pipeline of opportunity to for HBCUs to participate with partnership schools, and more. This Phase will have a prize pool of \$4,000,000, so up to 10 winning teams will be awarded a prize award will be \$400,000 per HBCU.

In Phase 3 of this track, each winning team from Phase 2 will be eligible to compete in Phase 3. This Phase is focused on proving and showcasing progress. HBCUs will have had time to work closely with their partners to advance their plans, hire, build programing, leverage curricula, build pipelines for greater opportunities, etc. In Phase 3, HBCUs will be expected to showcase what specifically has been accomplished, what students have (or will be) positively impacted, provide links to program features, show communications/outreach materials, and prove that a pipeline of opportunity has been created with the partner organization. This Phase will last approximately five months and will have a prize pool of \$1,750,000, that will be split evenly between up to three winning HBCUs.

Key dates for the Partnerships Track are:

- **Partnership Phase 1 Launches:** Aug. 29, 2023
- **Partnership Phase 1 Submissions Due:** Dec. 19, 2023
- **Partnership Phase 1 Winners Announced:** February 2024
- **Partnership Phase 2 Launches:** February 2024 (anticipated)
- **Partnership Phase 2 Submissions Due:** June 2024 (anticipated)
- **Partnership Phase 2 Winners Announced:** July 2024 (anticipated)

- **Partnership Phase 3 Launches:** July 2024 (anticipated)
- **Partnership Phase 3 Submissions Due:** December 2024 (anticipated)
- **Partnership Phase 3 Winners Announced:** January 2025 (anticipated).

Eligibility and Competitors

The competition is open only to HBCUs, and all prize winnings will be paid out directly to HBCUs using their legal tax IDs. HBCUs are expected to build partnerships throughout the prize competition, but all prize funding awarded will go to the HBCU specifically. If an HBCU wants to split prize funding with a partner organization, it will be the sole responsibility of the HBCU to provide that funding to partners, contractors, or other participating organizations.

- Academic institutions must be based in the United States or U.S. Territories and be defined by the U.S. Department of Education as an HBCU.³
- Each HBCU can only lead one submission through this prize program, however, HBCUs are allowed to be a partner on other HBCU submission packages.
- DOE employees, employees of sponsoring organizations, members of their immediate families (e.g., spouses, children, siblings, or parents), and persons living in the same household as such persons, whether or not related, are ineligible to participate in the prize.
- Individuals who worked at DOE (federal employees or support service contractors) within 6 months prior to the submission deadline of any contest are ineligible to participate in any prize contests in this program.
- Federal entities and federal employees are ineligible to participate in any portion of the prize.
- DOE national laboratory employees cannot compete in the prize.
- Entities and individuals publicly banned from doing business with the U.S. government such as entities and individuals debarred, suspended, or otherwise excluded from or ineligible for participating in federal programs are ineligible to compete.
- Individuals participating in a foreign government talent recruitment program¹ sponsored by a country of risk² and teams that include such individuals are not eligible to compete.
- Entities owned by, controlled by, or subject to the jurisdiction or direction of a government of a country of risk are not eligible to compete.

¹ Foreign Government-Sponsored Talent Recruitment Program is defined as an effort directly or indirectly organized, managed, or funded by a foreign government, or a foreign government instrumentality or entity, to recruit science and technology professionals or students (regardless of citizenship or national origin, or whether having a full-time or part-time position). Some foreign government-sponsored talent recruitment programs operate with the intent to import or otherwise acquire from abroad, sometimes through illicit means, proprietary technology or software, unpublished data and methods, and intellectual property to further the military modernization goals and/or economic goals of a foreign government. Many, but not all, programs aim to incentivize the targeted individual to relocate physically to the foreign state for the above purpose. Some programs allow for or encourage continued employment at United States research facilities or receipt of federal research funds while concurrently working at and/or receiving compensation from a foreign institution, and some direct participants not to disclose their participation to U.S. entities. Compensation could take many forms including cash, research funding, complimentary foreign travel, honorific titles, career advancement opportunities, promised future compensation, or other types of remuneration or consideration, including in-kind compensation.

² DOE has designated the following countries as foreign countries of risk: Iran, North Korea, Russia, and China. This list is subject to change.

- As part of your submission to this prize program, you will be required to sign the following statement:

I am providing this submission package as part of my participation in this prize. I understand that I am providing this submission to the federal government. I certify under penalty of perjury that the named competitor meets the eligibility requirements for this prize competition and complies with all other rules contained in the Official Rules document. I further represent that the information contained in the submission is true and contains no misrepresentations. I understand false statements or misrepresentations to the federal government may result in civil and/or criminal penalties under 18 U.S.C. § 1001 and § 287 and 31 U.S.C. §§ 3729-3733 and 3801-3812..

How to Enter

Go to [HeroX](#) and follow the instructions for following, registering, and submitting all required materials before the associated deadlines. Additional updates will be made on the [HeroX](#) pages, so watch for updates on rules, timelines, and announcements.

1 Prize Background

The U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE's) Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) Clean Energy Education Prize consists of two tracks: the Inspire Track and the Partnerships Track. Both tracks focus on advancing programming at HBCU institutions to advance clean energy educational opportunities for students. The Inspire Track focuses on providing programming for K-12 and community college students, and the Partnerships Track focuses on HBCU undergraduate and/or graduate students.

Clean energy technology challenges are vast, and we need everyone to get involved to develop new solutions and companies for the benefit of the planet. This starts with young, inquisitive students who are looking for opportunities to learn and goes on up to successful collegiate students who are interested in furthering their career potential with graduate programs or other programming that will advance their knowledge of and connection to clean energy opportunities. Within the Justice40 initiative, the Biden administration is working toward environmental justice for all Americans by prioritizing funding of federal programs for the communities with the greatest need.

Though HBCU's only account for 3% of all post-secondary institutions in the United States, HBCU's graduate 17% of all Black students. Additionally, 40% of Black students who are pursuing graduate degrees in STEM fields attended HBCU's for undergraduate studies. The HBCU Clean Energy Education Prize attempts to continue to expand current HBCU efforts to increase diverse student enrollment in STEM undergraduate and graduate programs that can lead to careers in clean energy.

HBCUs across the nation have accounted for much of the progress in workforce diversity: 25% of Black graduates with STEM degrees come from HBCUs. And in recent years, HBCUs graduated 46% of Black women who earned degrees in STEM and they account for almost 30% of Black graduates of science and engineering doctoral programs.⁴

Historically, HBCU students have not had as much access to the levels of STEM programming (research and curriculum) that can lead to eventual careers in clean energy industries. The HBCU Clean Energy Education Prize is geared toward improving the learning opportunities for the younger generations, connecting them with early educational opportunities with HBCUs, and building robust programming that provides higher-level education opportunities for undergraduate and graduate students. Building these

programs will enhance offerings for the HBCUs and make the colleges and universities an even more desirable choice for many students.

The prize requirements will ensure HBCUs partner with other universities that have already developed successful clean energy programs and strategies. Potential connections can be made between the university partners that will advance programming, share ideas, share curricula, enable scholarship programs, implement student exchange programs, and more,

2 Inspire Track

Inspiring Students To Pursue Clean Energy Careers through HBCU Programming

The Inspire Track focuses on developing new summer programs (including the expansion of existing programs) or other programming during academic breaks that may last 1–6 weeks. We will also consider evening or weekend programs during the academic year. We are asking HBCUs to develop programming that can be implemented within one year of their prize submission. This prize should advance the HBCU's connection with the local community where the college or university is located, build educational programming for students (K-12 and/or nearby community colleges), and develop long-term programming that will continue into the future.

These programs should focus on student education and access to clean energy technologies, solutions, policies, research, careers, engineering principles, design, manufacturing, recycling, or basic education (depending on the level of students targeted). Examples of possible topic areas include renewable power (solar energy, wind energy, water power, geothermal energy), sustainable transportation (bioenergy, hydrogen and fuel cells, vehicles), and energy efficiency (buildings, advanced manufacturing and materials, decarbonization). Programs may focus on a single topic or on a wider variety of clean energy topics.

Competitors in this phase are encouraged to review the nine DOE Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy's technology areas when considering their curricula for these programs:

- [**Advanced Materials and Manufacturing Technologies**](#): The DOE Advanced Materials and Manufacturing Technologies Office advances energy-related materials and manufacturing technologies to increase domestic competitiveness and build a clean, decarbonized economy.
- [**Bioenergy**](#): The Bioenergy Technologies Office supports research, development, and demonstration to enable the sustainable use of domestic biomass and waste resources for the production of biofuels and bioproducts.
- [**Buildings**](#): The Building Technologies Office develops, demonstrates, and accelerates the adoption of cost-effective technologies, techniques, tools and services that enable high-performing, energy-efficient and demand-flexible residential and commercial buildings in both the new and existing buildings markets, in support of an equitable transition to a decarbonized energy system by 2050, starting with a decarbonized power sector by 2035.
- [**Geothermal**](#): The Geothermal Technologies Office works to reduce costs and risks associated with geothermal development by supporting innovative technologies that address key exploration and operational challenges.
- [**Hydrogen and Fuel Cells**](#): The DOE Hydrogen and Fuel Cell Technologies Office focuses on research, development, and demonstration of hydrogen and fuel cell technologies across multiple sectors enabling innovation, a strong domestic economy, and a clean, equitable energy future.

- [Industrial Efficiency and Decarbonization](#): The DOE Industrial Efficiency and Decarbonization Office accelerates the innovation and adoption of cost-effective technologies that eliminate industrial greenhouse gas emissions.
- [Solar](#): The Solar Energy Technologies Office accelerates the advancement and deployment of solar technology in support of an equitable transition to a decarbonized economy.
- [Vehicles](#): The Vehicle Technologies Office provides low-cost, secure, and clean energy technologies to move people and goods across America.
- [Water](#): The Water Power Technologies Office enables research, development, and testing of emerging technologies to advance marine energy as well as next-generation hydropower and pumped storage systems for a flexible, reliable grid.
- [Wind](#): The Wind Energy Technologies Office invests in energy science research and development activities that enable the innovations needed to advance U.S. wind systems, reduce the cost of electricity, and accelerate the deployment of wind power.

Examples of programs that would fit the intent of the prize include:

- Summer camp or summer bridge programs at the HBCU that last 1–6 weeks
- Programming that offers educational content and access to HBCU facilities (any time frame)
- Programs that take advantage of shorter school breaks (e.g., over the winter holiday season or spring break)
- Programming that includes opportunities to stay onsite at an HBCU campus
- School-to-school partnership programs that tie an HBCU to a specific elementary school, trade school, community college, or other relevant partnership.

In Phase 1 of this track, HBCUs will work to develop a strong educational plan that describes the plan of action, including proposed timing, partners, program goals, number of students served, ages of students served, for example. Up to 20 winning HBCUs from Phase 1 will receive \$40,000 each and will continue into the second phase of the Inspire Track.

In Phase 2 of this track, winning HBCUs from Phase 1 will get a chance to continue to develop their program plans, further implement the program, and provide initial metrics that showcases program impact, number of students who participated in the program, success stories, lessons learned, and more. All winning HBCUs from Phase 1 are potentially eligible to win in Phase 2, but teams must provide complete documentation through the submission process for Phase 2 and must demonstrate significant progress toward meeting the goals outlined in the planning documents provided in Phase 1. Up to 20 winning HBCUs will receive an additional \$10,000 in Phase 2.

2.1 Inspire Eligibility

All HBCUs in the United States and U.S. territories are eligible to submit for the Inspire Track of the prize.

- A letter of support from the HBCU's administration showing support for the pursuit of this prize is required.
- Only one submission will be accepted per HBCU institution.

HBCUs may apply individually or as a consortium of multiple HBCUs. HBCUs may not apply both individually and as a consortium.

- HBCUs applying as a consortium must appoint a lead institution. Prizes will be awarded to the lead institution of a consortium and it will be up to the consortium to divide among themselves.

- Letters of support from each HBCU administration in the consortium showing support for the pursuit of this prize are required.
- Only one submission will be accepted per HBCU institution.

2.2 What to Submit for Phase 1 of the Inspire Track

The submission must include a cover page and a 2,500-word background narrative that includes the following:

- HBCU description, team information, past experiences and similar programs, capabilities and relevant staff background
- Narrative about the proposed idea/program and how it will be impactful for the students and the college/university
- Letter of support from a top-ranking official from the HBCU's administration (e.g., president or dean) that provides the institution's support for competing in the prize and signifying support for the new programming.
- Additional letters of support from partners are optional but encouraged.

Winning Teams: up to 20 HBCU winners selected at \$40,000 cash award each

Total Prize Pool: \$800,000

This rest of this section provides guidance on which information to submit and how reviewers evaluate and score your submission.

Reviewers will evaluate your submissions by assigning a single score for each scored submission section, based on their overall agreement or disagreement with a series of statements.

1	2	3	4	5	6
Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Slightly Disagree	Slightly Agree	Agree	Strongly Agree

2.2.1 Cover Page

List basic information about your submission, including:

- Program title
- HBCU name
- Short description of your plan and programming
- Key team members (names, contacts, and links to their professional online profiles)
- Other partners (if any)
- Your city, state, and nine-digit ZIP code.

2.2.2 Background Narrative

You should answer each of the following three questions. The content bullets are only suggestions to guide your responses: you decide where to focus your answers. The individual answers to the two questions do not have a word limit; however, **the aggregate response to these questions must not exceed 2,500 words**, not including captions, figures/graphs, or references. A word count must be included at the end of your submission (see template for details). You may also include **up to five supporting images, figures, or graphs**. The reviewers will score the questions based on the content you have provided.

<p style="text-align: center;">Narrative</p> <p>Maximum: 2,500 words and five supporting images or figures</p> <p>Format: Adobe PDF</p> <p>Template:</p>	
<p>Question 1: The Program – What is your proposed program and what students will be targeted for participation?</p>	
<p>Suggested content the applicant provides may:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Explain why the program will be impactful for the HBCU and the local community. ● Describe the student groups you will target for this program and how you will conduct outreach efforts to tell the local community about this program. ● Provide information about how many students will potentially be served by participating in the program and where will they be housed (e.g., onsite, offsite). ● Provide lesson and outreach plan information if available. ● Introduce your project team, explain how it came together, and highlight the knowledge and skills that make it uniquely capable of achieving success. ● Highlight your team's diversity and experience and the track record that makes it likely to succeed in the prize competition (e.g., whether you have experience running similar programs). 	<p>A single score on a scale of 1–6 is provided, taking the following statements into consideration:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The project team has past experiences, capacity, and staff capabilities that should lead to a successful program. ● The program will provide clean energy educational programming for students in the K-12 or community college age ranges. ● The team has fully developed a program idea that can be successfully implemented and will make a positive impact for the students and the HBCU. ● The program description is reasonable to accomplish within the timeline provided in the HBCU's plan. ● The plan outlines how a substantial number of students will be impacted by the program in the near term and for the long term. ● The plan outlines clear attainable objectives that can be quantitatively measured pre- and post-program.
<p>Question 2: The Approach – How are you planning to implement the program?</p>	
<p>Suggested content the applicant provides may:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Describe how the programming will be implemented. Describe which staff will lead and implement it (e.g., graduate students, lab techs, or local professionals). ● Describe your outreach strategy for engaging with the local community, students, and schools. ● Describe your plans for continuing programming into the future. ● Describe partnerships you have, or will you be seeking, to help make the program successful. 	<p>A single score on a scale of 1–6 is provided, taking the following statements into consideration:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The program has a clear path for a successful outcome and the HBCU has properly planned for the implementation of the program. ● The outreach strategy is reasonable to engage the students they are developing the program for. ● The program has a high potential for success and a high likelihood that the program will be sustainable into the future. ● The HBCU intends to continue funding this program into the future.

Reviewer Recommendation	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is no direct corresponding submission requirement for this score. Rather, it is an overall assessment of all materials submitted in HeroX. 	<p>A single score of either 1 or 6 is provided, taking the following statement into consideration:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The HBCU should be strongly considered for a prize.

2.2.3 Letter of Support from the HBCU Administration (Required)

Attach a one-page letter of support from a top-ranking official from the HBCU's administration (e.g., president or dean) that provides the institution's support for competing in the prize and signifying support for the new programming.

2.2.4 Additional Letters of Support or Commitment (Optional)

Attach one-page letters (of support, partnership, or commitment) from relevant entities to provide context. Letters of support from partners or others who are critical to the success of your proposed program will enhance your proposal. General letters of support from parties that are not critical to the execution of your solution will likely not factor into your score. Limit each letter to one page. Please combine all letters into a single PDF document.

2.3 How We Determine and Award Winners

The Prize Administrator screens all completed submissions and ensures the teams are eligible. Then the Prize Administrator, in consultation with DOE, assigns subject-matter-expert reviewers who independently score the content of each submission. The reviewers will be composed of federal and nonfederal subject-matter experts. They will review the competitors' submitted materials according to the evaluation criteria. DOE will consider the scores and make the final decisions.

2.3.1 Reviewer Panel Scoring

The scoring of submissions will proceed as follows:

- Experts will review each submission individually and assess the response from the competitor to each statement in the criteria described in the tables in Section 2.2.2 (page 10).
- Reviewers will score each section on a scale of 1–6, depending on the degree to which the reviewer agrees the submission reflects the statements for consideration.
- The individual section scores will be summed to generate a total score for the submission.
- The total scores from all reviewers will be averaged to produce a final score for each applicant. This score will inform the reviewers' decisions on prize awards.

2.3.2 Interviews

DOE may decide to interview a subset of applicants. The interviews would be held before the announcement of the winners and would serve to help clarify questions that DOE may have. Participating in interviews is not required, and interviews are not an indication of a competitor's likelihood to win.

2.4 Final Determination and Announcement

DOE will designate a federal employee as the judge before the final determination of the winners. Final determination of the winners by the judge will take into account the reviewers' feedback and scores, application of program policy factors, and the interview findings (if applicable).

Approximately 30 days after the contest closes, the Prize Administrator will notify the winners and request the information needed to distribute the awards. The Prize Administrator will then publicly announce the winners.

2.5 What to Submit for Phase 2 of the Inspire Track

The submission will include a cover page and a 2,500-word background narrative that includes the following:

- HBCU description, team information, and an overview of the plan submitted in Phase 1.
- Narrative about the proposed idea/program and how the program was implemented to be impactful for the students and the college/university.
- Update on the program implementation, how the HBCU has made progress since Phase 1, including success stories, lessons learned, marketing materials, pictures, videos, for example.
- Letter of support from a top-ranking official from the HBCU's administration (e.g., president or dean) that provides the institution's support for competing in the prize and signifying support for the new programming.
- Additional letters of support from partners are optional but encouraged.

Winning Teams: up to 20 HBCU winners selected at \$10,000 cash award each

Total Prize Pool: \$200,000

This rest of this section provides guidance on which information to submit and how reviewers evaluate and score your submission.

Reviewers will evaluate your submissions by assigning a single score for each scored submission section, based on their overall agreement or disagreement with a series of statements.

1	2	3	4	5	6
Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Slightly Disagree	Slightly Agree	Agree	Strongly Agree

2.5.1 Cover Page

List basic information about your submission, including:

- Program title
- HBCU name
- Short description of your plan and programming
- Key team members (names, contacts, and links to their professional online profiles).
- Other partners (if any)
- The city, state, and nine-digit ZIP code of the HBCU

2.5.2 Background Narrative

You should answer each of the following three questions. The content bullets are only suggestions to guide your responses: you decide where to focus your answers. The individual answers to the two questions do not have a word limit; however, **the aggregate response to these questions must not exceed 2,500 words**, not including captions, figures/graphs, or references. A word count must be included at the end of your submission (see template for details). You may also include **up to five supporting images, figures, or graphs**. The reviewers will score the questions based on the content you have provided.

<p style="text-align: center;">Narrative</p> <p>Maximum: 2,500 words and five supporting images or figures</p> <p>Format: Adobe PDF</p> <p>Template:</p>	
<p>Question 1: The Program Update – What has the HBCU accomplished? Describe the program and what has been accomplished so far.</p>	
<p>Suggested content the applicant provides may:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Describe what have you accomplished so far, including whether the program already took place. If not, describe the plan, timing, and approach you will take to implement the program. Introduce any updates or new additions to the project team (e.g., whether a third-party contractor or expert was brought on). Describe the student groups you have targeted for this program and the recruiting efforts you have used so far (e.g., social media and visits to local schools). Provide the lesson plans that have been used or will be used for the program. 	<p>A single score on a scale of 1–6 is provided, taking the following statements into consideration:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The project team has made significant progress in developing and implementing a program in alignment with the goals. The program has provided clean energy educational programming for students in the K-12 and/or community college age ranges. The team has developed and implemented a program idea that was, or will be, successfully implemented and will make a positive impact for the students and the HBCU. The plan outlines how a substantial number of students will be impacted by the program in the near term and for the long term.
<p>Question 2: Successes and Materials – What are your successes, outreach strategy, and lessons learned? How did the students react to the programming?</p>	
<p>Suggested content the applicant provides may:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Describe any success stories, lessons learned, and adjustments you made to your plan. Provide an update on your recruiting efforts, including how many students have been contacted, what backgrounds they are from, which age groups they are in (e.g., K-12, or community college). Include links or screen captures to marketing materials, blog posts, photos, videos, educational materials, or other information that showcases the success of the programming. 	<p>A single score on a scale of 1–6 is provided, taking the following statements into consideration:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The program plans appear to be set up for success and the HBCU has proven successes and will help the HBCU continue successful programming in the future. Students were successfully included in some form of programming that led to a connection with the HBCU.
<p>Reviewer Recommendation</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is no direct corresponding submission requirement for this score. Rather, it is an overall assessment of all materials submitted in HeroX. 	<p>A single score of either 1 or 6 is provided, taking the following statement into consideration:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The HBCU should be strongly considered for a prize.
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2.5.3 Letter of Support from the HBCU Administration (Required)

Attach a one-page letter of support from a top-ranking official from the HBCU's administration (e.g., president or dean) that provides the institution's support for competing in the prize and signifying support for the new programming.

2.5.4 Additional Letters of Support or Commitment (Optional)

Attach one-page letters (of support, partnership, or commitment) from relevant entities to provide context. Letters of support from partners or others who are critical to the success of your proposed program will enhance your proposal. General letters of support from parties that are not critical to the execution of your solution will likely not factor into your score. Limit each letter to one page. Please combine all letters into a single PDF document.

2.6 How We Determine and Award Winners

The Prize Administrator screens all completed submissions and ensures the teams are eligible. Then the Prize Administrator, in consultation with DOE, assigns subject-matter-expert reviewers who independently score the content of each submission. The reviewers will be composed of federal and nonfederal subject-matter experts. They will review the competitors' submitted materials according to the evaluation criteria. DOE will consider the scores and make the final decisions.

2.6.1 Reviewer Panel Scoring

The scoring of submissions will proceed as follows:

- Experts will review each submission individually and assess the response from the competitor to each statement in the criteria described in the tables in Section 2.2.2 (page 10).
- Reviewers will score each section on a scale of 1–6, depending on the degree to which the reviewer agrees the submission reflects the statements for consideration.
- The individual section scores will be summed to generate a total score for the submission.
- The total scores from all reviewers will be averaged to produce a final score for each applicant. This score will inform the reviewers' decisions on prize awards.

2.6.2 Interviews

DOE may decide to interview a subset of applicants. The interviews would be held before the announcement of the winners and would serve to help clarify questions that DOE may have. Participating in interviews is not required, and interviews are not an indication of a competitor's likelihood to win.

2.7 Final Determination and Announcement

DOE will designate a federal employee as the judge before the final determination of the winners. Final determination of the winners by the judge will take into account the reviewers' feedback and scores, application of program policy factors, and the interview findings (if applicable).

Approximately 30 days after the contest closes, the Prize Administrator will notify the winners and request the information needed to distribute the awards. The Prize Administrator will then publicly announce the winners.

3 Partnerships Track

Collaborating To Help HBCU Students Succeed in Clean Energy Education and Careers

The Partnerships Track focuses on forming key partnerships between HBCUs and other universities, institutions, government agencies, and other leaders in the clean energy space to develop programs that will accelerate opportunities for HBCU students.

Examples of **programming** that would fit the intent of the prize include:

- Development of new clean energy programs at the HBCU based on curriculum and expertise from partner educational institutions.
- Advanced clean energy curriculum leveraged in partnership between the universities and industry partners, professional organizations, or national laboratories
- Implementation of graduate-level scholarship programs (internally or with external partners)
- Development of cross-university exchange programs and opportunities for HBCU students to visit and participate in programming at partner universities
- Development and implementation of clean energy industry relationships (internship/job opportunities, campus recruiting visits, mentorship programs, and support of clean energy lab infrastructure needs)
- Support for student design projects and capstone projects involving collaboration with industries, partners, and universities
- Adoption and implementation of clean energy certificate programs
- Opportunities for HBCU students to visit and participate in programming at partner universities

In the Partnerships Track, partnering with other institutions and industry partners is highly desired. Successful HBCU competitors will initiate partnerships between their educational institution and other partner universities, government agencies, and industry in the clean energy space in an effort to build long-standing partnerships that will result in HBCU programming and educational opportunities for undergraduate and/or graduate students. Teams will develop a plan of action, provide evidence of partnership commitment, describe the goals and benefits of partnerships, and discuss how the partnerships will positively impact HBCU students. In Phase 2, HBCUs will showcase how they were able to implement their plans, advance their partnerships, and successfully develop new programming that will help provide improved educational and career opportunities to HBCU students.

Examples of **partnerships** that would fit the intent of the prize include, but is not limited to:

- A single HBCU leading a team to create key partnerships with other HBCUs, non-HBCU educational institutions, industry, non-profit organizations, government agencies, and/or other partners to expand opportunities for HBCU students. The purpose of these partnerships should be to develop scholarship opportunities, build pipelines to opportunities at non-HBCU institutions, develop cross university exchange programs for HBCU students to visit, leverage existing curricula, etc.

- A single HBCU leading a consortium of other HBCU partners that are close in proximity, or have common goals via a partnership agreement, consortium, or other collaborative means. In this case, one lead HBCU must be identified as the lead, and that one HBCU will be responsible for splitting prize funding appropriately.
- A group of HBCUs that have a collaborative engagement and have agreed to equally partner on programming that can be shared, leveraged, and implemented across universities. In this case, one lead HBCU must be identified as the lead, and that one HBCU will be responsible for splitting prize funding appropriately.

Critical items for HBCUs to consider in their submission:

- Each HBCU can only lead one submission through this prize program, however, HBCUs are allowed to be a partner on other HBCU submission packages.
- One lead HBCU will need to be identified as the lead, and that entity will be the only entity that will be paid if a prize is won.
- When submitting to the prize, make sure that the full legal name of the HBCU, or the university center, that is to be paid is provided on the application. The Prize Administrator will pay the legal name of the organization that is on the submission form, and this must be an identifiable HBCU institution and must include the full legal name that is used for tax purposes.
- Submitters should ensure that the proper institution name is provided and that the institution's accounts receivable team is aware that a prize payment could possibly be coming in the future if a prize is awarded.
- The Prize Administrator will not get involved with, or arbitrate, disagreements between partners.
- There may be tax implications for winning a prize, HBCUs should consult a tax advisor if there are questions related to this topic.

We encourage HBCU student teams to also review additional opportunities for participating in other student competitions: [EERE \(Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy\) student competitions](#).

3.1 Eligibility for Phase 1 of the Partnerships Track

All HBCUs in the United States and U.S. territories are eligible to submit for this program. Letters of support from the HBCU's administration showing necessary support for programs to occur is required. HBCUs may apply individually or as a team or consortium of multiple HBCUs. If HBCUs are teaming together, one lead HBCU must be the team lead and only that institution will win the prize award. If the HBCUs want to share prize funding with other partners or institutions, the lead HBCU will be responsible for making those payments.

Please note that the structure of your submission can take any the following forms:

- (1) You can lead ONE proposal as an individual or a lead of a multi-school proposal
- (2) You can lead ONE proposal as an individual or a lead of a multi-school proposal AND be a non-lead team member of a multi-school proposal.
- (3) You can participate in TWO proposals as a non-lead team member of a multi-school proposal

3.2 What to Submit for Phase 1 of the Partnerships Track

The submission will include a 90-second video that describes the HBCU, the partnerships to be created, and the plan for developing clean energy programming to advance HBCU student opportunities.

The submission will also include a cover page and a 4,000-word background narrative that includes the following:

- HBCU description, team information, past experiences and similar programs, capabilities and relevant staff background
- Technical narrative about the proposed idea/program and how it will be impactful for the students and the college/university
- Letter of support from a top-ranking official from the HBCU's administration official (e.g., president or dean) who provides the institution's support for competing in the prize and signifying support for the new programming
- Additional letters of support from partners.

Winning Teams: up to 10 HBCU winners selected at \$100,000 cash award each

Total Prize Pool: \$1,000,000

This section provides guidance on the information to submit and how reviewers evaluate and score the submissions.

Reviewers will evaluate submissions by assigning a single score for each scored submission section, based on their overall agreement or disagreement with a series of statements.

1	2	3	4	5	6
Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Slightly Disagree	Slightly Agree	Agree	Strongly Agree

3.2.1 Video

The public online 90-second video should include:

- Information about the HBCU and its other university/college partners
- What the program is about and general information about your plans
- Potential impact to the HBCU, university partners, and students if awarded a prize.

The video will be utilized as background information that will be considered in the selection process.

Post your publicly accessible video online (e.g., YouTube or Vimeo). Be creative and produce a video that conveys the required information in exciting and interesting ways but do not focus on time-consuming activities that only improve production values (e.g., technical elements such as decor, lighting, and cinematic techniques). Assistance from others with experience in this area may be helpful. Members of the American-Made Network may be able to help you create your video.

3.2.2 Cover Page

List basic information about your submission, including:

- Program title
- Lead HBCU name
- Additional HBCU or other University partners
- Short description of the program plan
- Key team members (names, contacts, and links to their professional online profiles)

- Other partners (if any)
- The city, state, and nine-digit ZIP code of the HBCU.

3.2.3 Phase 1 Partnership Narrative

You should answer each of the following three questions. The content bullets are only suggestions to guide your responses: you decide where to focus your answers. The individual answers to the two questions do not have a word limit; however, **the aggregate response to these questions must not exceed 4,000 words**, not including captions, figures/graphs, or references. A word count must be included at the end of your submission (see template for details). You may also include **up to five supporting images, figures, or graphs**. The reviewers will score the questions based on the content you have provided.

Narrative	
Maximum: 4,000 words and five supporting images or figures Format: Adobe PDF Template:	
Question 1: The Program – What is your proposed program and how will your partnerships be leveraged?	
Suggested content the applicant provides may: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduce your HBCU team, explain how it came together, and highlight the knowledge and skills that make it uniquely capable of achieving success. • Describe the partnerships you have created so far and explain how you will enhance future partner engagement. • Explain why this program will be impactful for the HBCU, its partners, and students. • Describe the student groups you will target for this program and how you will conduct outreach efforts to tell students about this program. • Describe steps your team will take to maximize the impact of the funding provided by this prize program. • Quantify the projected number of students impacted and how students will benefit from the proposed programs. 	A single score on a scale of 1–6 is provided, taking the following statements into consideration: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The HBCU has past experiences, capacity, and staff capabilities that should lead to a successful program. • The HBCU partners have committed to the success of this program and have the experiences to help implement the program. • The program is in alignment with the goals of the prize. • The HBCU and its partners have fully developed a program idea that can be successfully implemented and will make a positive impact for the students, the HBCU, and its partners. • The program description seems reasonable, achievable, impactful, • The program is designed to effectively maximize the impact of funding for HBCU students.
Question 2: Approach – How are you planning to implement the program and partnerships?	
Suggested content the applicant provides may: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Describe how the partnerships will be implemented. Describe which staff will lead and implement it, and whether new staff are needed. 	A single score on a scale of 1–6 is provided, taking the following statements into consideration: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The partnerships have a clear path for a successful outcome, and the HBCU and its partners have properly planned for the initiation of the partnerships.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Describe your plans for continuing the partnerships and programming into the future beyond efforts funded by this prize. • Describe partnerships you have, or will you be seeking, to help make the program successful. • Describe your plans for marketing the program to students and spreading the word about the partnership's successes. • Provide any metrics you have that can show potential for impact and students served. • Explain how these partnerships will enhance student experiences and exposure to clean energy careers. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The partners are engaged and willing to commit to the partnership's success. • The outreach strategy is likely to be successful in engaging students and communicate the partnership's successes to a broad audience. • The partnerships have a high potential for success and a high likelihood that they will be sustainable into the future.
Reviewer Recommendation	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is no direct corresponding submission requirement for this score. Rather, it is an overall assessment of all materials submitted in HeroX. 	<p>A single score of either 1 or 6 is provided, taking the following statement into consideration:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The HBCU should be strongly considered for a prize.

3.2.4 Letter of Support from the HBCU Administration (Required)

Attach a one-page letter of support from a top-ranking official from the HBCU's administration (e.g., president or dean) that provides the institution's support for competing in the prize and signifying support for the new programming. An individual letter of support is required from every HBCU that is participating as part of the team or consortium. All single-page letters of support should be combined into one PDF document and submitted together.

3.2.5 Letters of Support or Partnership (Required)

Letters to support the partnerships created during this phase of the prize are required to strengthen and support the submission. Attach one-page letters (of support, partnership, or commitment) from other relevant entities to provide context. Letters of support from identified partners or others who are critical to the success of your proposed partnerships will enhance your proposal. General letters of support from parties that are not critical to the execution of your solution will likely not factor into your score. Do not submit multipage letters. All single-page letters of support should be combined into one PDF document and submitted together.

3.3 How We Determine and Award Winners

The Prize Administrator screens all completed submissions and ensures the teams are eligible. Then the Prize Administrator, in consultation with DOE, assigns subject-matter-expert reviewers who independently score the content of each submission. The reviewers will be composed of federal and nonfederal subject-matter experts. They will review the competitors' submitted materials according to the evaluation criteria above.

3.3.1 Reviewer Panel Scoring

The scoring of submissions will proceed as follows:

- Experts will review each submission individually and assess the response from the competitor to each statement in the criteria described in the tables in this document.
- Reviewers will score each section with a score on a scale of 1–6, depending on the degree to which the reviewer agrees the submission reflects the statements for consideration.
- The individual section scores will be summed to generate a total score for the submission.
- The total scores from all reviewers will be averaged to produce a final score for each applicant. This score will inform the reviewers' decisions on prize awards.

3.3.2 Interviews

DOE may decide to interview a subset of applicants. The interviews would be held before the announcement of the winners and would serve to help clarify questions the reviewers may have. Participating in interviews is not required, and interviews are not an indication of a competitor's likelihood to win.

3.4 Final Determination and Announcement

DOE will designate a federal employee as the judge before the final determination of the winners. Final determination of the winners by the judge will consider the reviewers' feedback and scores, application of program policy factors, and the interview findings (if applicable).

Approximately 30 days after the contest closes, the Prize Administrator will notify the winners and request the information needed to distribute the awards. The Prize Administrator will then publicly announce the winners.

3.5 Eligibility for the Phase 2 of the Partnerships Track

Only HBCUs that competed and won a prize in Phase 1 of this track are eligible to compete in Phase 2. The intent of Phase 2 is to continue to build on the partnerships and programming developed in Phase 1. All 10 winning HBCU teams from Phase 1 are eligible to compete, and potentially win, in Phase 2.

3.6 What to Submit for Phase 2 of the Partnerships Track

The submission will include a 90-second video that describes the HBCU, the partnerships created, and the progress made throughout Phase 2 toward developing clean energy programming to advance HBCU student opportunities.

The submission will also include a cover page and up to a 5,000-word technical narrative that includes the following:

- HBCU description, team information, past experiences and similar programs, capabilities and relevant staff background
- Technical narrative about the progress made during Phase 2 on the partnerships and programming, what has been developed so far, what the partnership has accomplished since winning Phase 1, the plans for the future, and potential for sustaining the programming and partnerships.
- Letter of support from a top-ranking official from the HBCU's administration (e.g., president or dean) that provides the institution's support for competing in the prize and signifying support for

- the new programming.
- Letters of support/partnership in support of the HBCU project.

Winning Teams: Up to 10 HBCU winners will split a total prize pool of up to \$4,000,000

This section provides guidance on the information to submit and how reviewers evaluate and score the submissions.

Reviewers will evaluate submissions by assigning a single score for each scored submission section, based on their overall agreement or disagreement with a series of statements.

1	2	3	4	5	6
Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Slightly Disagree	Slightly Agree	Agree	Strongly Agree

3.6.1 Video

The public online 90-second video should include:

- Information about the HBCU and its other university/college partners
- What the program has accomplished during the course of the prize, what the next steps are, and information about when the program will launch
- Potential impact to the HBCU, university partners, and students if awarded a prize.

The video will be utilized as background information that will be considered in the selection process.

Post your publicly accessible video online (e.g., YouTube or Vimeo). Be creative and produce a video that conveys the required information in exciting and interesting ways but do not focus on time-consuming activities that only improve production values (e.g., technical elements such as decor, lighting, and cinematic techniques). Assistance from others with experience in this area may be helpful. Members of the American-Made Network may be able to help you create your video.

3.6.2 Cover Page

List basic information about your submission, including:

- Program title
- Lead HBCU name
- Additional HBCU or other University partners
- Short description of the program plan
- Key team members (names, contacts, and links to their professional online profiles)
- Other partners (if any)
- The city, state, and nine-digit ZIP code of the HBCU.

3.6.3 Phase 2 Partnership Narrative

You should answer each of the following three questions. The content bullets are only suggestions to guide your responses: you decide where to focus your answers. The individual answers to the two questions do not have a word limit; however, **the aggregate response to these questions must not exceed 4,000 words**, not including captions, figures/graphs, or references. A word count must be included at the

end of your submission (see template for details). You may also include **up to five supporting images, figures, or graphs**. The reviewers will score the questions based on the content you have provided.

Narrative	
Maximum: 5,000 words and five supporting images or figures Format: Adobe PDF Template:	
Question 1: The Partnership Implementation – What have you accomplished to date?	
Suggested content the applicant provides may: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Describe the partnerships you have created so far and explain how you will enhance future partner engagement. • Explain how your HBCU team has been working with partners (industries and/or universities) to develop and implement these programs. • Highlight your team’s achievements to date, explain what has been accomplished and how close you are to finalizing/launching these programs. • Describe steps your team has taken to maximize the impact of the funding provided by this prize program. • Describe the next steps that are critical to your success, what is needed, from who, and when. • Describe the programs and any feedback you have received from staff, students, or the community that support the value of the programs. • Explain why the programs will be impactful for the HBCU, its partners, and students. • Describe the student groups you will target for this program and how you will conduct outreach efforts to tell students about this program. • Describe steps your team has taken to maximize the impact of the funding provided by this prize program. • Quantify the projected number of students impacted and how students will benefit from the proposed programs. 	A single score on a scale of 1–6 is provided, taking the following statements into consideration: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The HBCU has proven that they have made significant progress toward the programs’ integration, development, and implementation. • The HBCU partners remain committed to the success of these programs and have the experiences to help implement the programs. • The programs are in alignment with the goals of the prize. • The HBCU and its partners have strong evidence that they have achieved key accomplishments that will continue to help implement the programs and have a positive impact for the students, the HBCU, and its partners. • Efforts to leverage the prize funding to maximize its impact have been successful.
Question 2: Approach – What are the next steps and future potential for the program?	
Suggested content the applicant provides may: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Describe the specific tasks that have been accomplished throughout the prize and what 	A single score on a scale of 1–6 is provided, taking the following statements into consideration:

<p>next steps are required to finalize and launch the programs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Describe your plans for continuing programming into the future. • Describe any additional partnerships you are seeking. • Provide details about timing to launch the programs (e.g., how many students will be participating). • Describe your plans for marketing the programs to students and spreading the word about the programs' successes • Provide any metrics you have that can show potential for impact and students served. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The programs have a clear path for a successful outcome and the HBCU, and its partners, have properly planned for the implementation of the program. • The partners continue to be engaged and committed to the programs' success. • The outreach strategy seems reasonable to engage students and spread the word about program successes. • The programs have a high potential for success and a high likelihood that the program will be sustainable into the future.
Reviewer Recommendation	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is no direct corresponding submission requirement for this score. Rather, it is an overall assessment of all materials submitted in HeroX. 	<p>A single score of either 1 or 6 is provided, taking the following statement into consideration:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The HBCU should be strongly considered for a prize.

3.6.4 Letter of Support from the HBCU Administration (Required)

Attach a one-page letter of support from a top-ranking official from the HBCU's administration (e.g. president or dean) that provides the institution's support for competing in the prize and signifying support for the new programming. An individual letter of support is required from every HBCU that is participating as part of the team or consortium. All single-page letters of support should be combined into one PDF document and submitted together.

3.6.5 Letters of Support or Partnership (Required)

Letters to support the partnerships created during this phase of the prize are required to strengthen and support the submission. Attach one-page letters (of support, partnership, or commitment) from other relevant entities to provide context. Letters of support from partners or others who are critical to the success of your proposed program will enhance your proposal. General letters of support from parties that are not critical to the execution of your solution will likely not factor into your score. Do not submit multipage letters. All single-page letters of support should be combined into one PDF document and submitted together.

3.7 How We Determine and Award Winners

The Prize Administrator screens all completed submissions and ensures the teams are eligible. Then the Prize Administrator, in consultation with DOE, assigns subject-matter-expert reviewers who independently score the content of each submission. The reviewers will be composed of federal and nonfederal subject-matter experts. They will review the competitors' submitted materials according to the evaluation criteria.

3.7.1 Reviewer Panel Scoring

The scoring of submissions will proceed as follows:

- Experts will review each submission individually and assess the response from the competitor to each statement in the criteria described in the tables in this document.
- Reviewers will score each section on a scale of 1–6, depending on the degree to which the reviewer agrees the submission reflects the statements for consideration.
- The individual section scores will be summed to generate a total score for the submission.
- The total scores from all reviewers will be averaged to produce a final score for each applicant. This score will inform the reviewers' decisions on prize awards.

3.8.1 Interviews

DOE may decide to interview a subset of applicants. The interviews would be held before the announcement of the winners and would serve to help clarify questions the reviewers may have. Participating in interviews is not required, and interviews are not an indication of a competitor's likelihood to win.

3.9 Final Determination and Announcement

DOE will designate a federal employee as the judge before the final determination of the winners. Final determination of the winners by the judge will consider the reviewers' feedback and scores, application of program policy factors, and the interview findings (if applicable).

Approximately 60 days after the contest closes, the Prize Administrator will notify the winners and request the information needed to distribute the awards. The Prize Administrator will then publicly announce the winners.

3.10 Eligibility for the Phase 3 of the Partnerships Track

Only HBCUs that competed and won a prize in Phase 2 of this track are eligible to compete in Phase 3. The intent of Phase 3 is to continue to build on the partnerships and programming developed in Phase 2. All winning HBCU teams from Phase 2 are eligible to compete, but only the top 3 winning teams will be awarded additional prize money in Phase 3.

3.11 What to Submit for Phase 3 of the Partnerships Track

The submission will include a 90-second video that describes the HBCU, the partnerships created, and the progress made throughout Phase 3 toward developing clean energy programming to advance HBCU student opportunities.

The submission will also include a cover page and up to a 5,000-word technical narrative that includes the following:

- HBCU description, team information, past experiences and similar programs, capabilities and relevant staff background
- Technical narrative about the progress made during Phase 3 on the partnerships and programming, what has been developed and implemented, what the partnership has accomplished since winning Phase 2, the plans for the future, and potential for sustaining the

- programming and partnerships.
- Letter of support from a top-ranking official from the HBCU's administration (e.g., president or dean) that provides the institution's support for competing in the prize and signifying support for the new programming.
- Letters of support/partnership in support of the HBCU project.

Winning Teams: Up to 3 HBCU winners will split a total prize pool of up to \$1,750,000

This section provides guidance on the information to submit and how reviewers evaluate and score the submissions.

Reviewers will evaluate submissions by assigning a single score for each scored submission section, based on their overall agreement or disagreement with a series of statements.

1	2	3	4	5	6
Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Slightly Disagree	Slightly Agree	Agree	Strongly Agree

3.11.1 Video

The public online 90-second video should include:

- Information about the HBCU and its other university/college partners
- What the program has accomplished during the course of the prize, what the next steps are, and information about when the program will launch
- Potential impact to the HBCU, university partners, and students if awarded a prize.

The video will be utilized as background information that will be considered in the selection process.

Post your publicly accessible video online (e.g., YouTube or Vimeo). Be creative and produce a video that conveys the required information in exciting and interesting ways but do not focus on time-consuming activities that only improve production values (e.g., technical elements such as decor, lighting, and cinematic techniques). Assistance from others with experience in this area may be helpful. Members of the American-Made Network may be able to help you create your video.

3.11.2 Cover Page

List basic information about your submission, including:

- Program title
- Lead HBCU name
- Additional HBCU or other University partners
- Short description of the program plan
- Key team members (names, contacts, and links to their professional online profiles)
- Other partners (if any)
- Your city, state, and nine-digit ZIP code.

3.11.3 Phase 3 Partnership Narrative

You should answer each of the following three questions. The content bullets are only suggestions to guide your responses: you decide where to focus your answers. The individual answers to the two questions do not have a word limit; however, **the aggregate response to these questions must not exceed 5,000 words**, not including captions, figures/graphs, or references. A word count must be included at the end of your submission (see template for details). You may also include **up to five supporting images, figures, or graphs**. The reviewers will score the questions based on the content you have provided.

Narrative	
Maximum: 5,000 words and five supporting images or figures Format: Adobe PDF Template:	
Question 1: The Partnership and Programming Implementation – What have you accomplished to date?	
Suggested content the applicant provides may: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Showcase your progress by providing program details, links to relevant webpages, videos, outreach materials, quotes from university/partner leaders, etc.• Quantify the number of students served by your program or programs and what benefits students have received.• Describe how the partnerships you have created have directly impacted programming that will help advance clean energy careers for HBCU students.• Explain how your HBCU team has worked with partners (industries and/or universities) to make improvements and show progress in developing these programs.• Highlight your team's achievements to date, explain what has been accomplished and how close you are to finalizing/launching these programs.• Describe the next steps that are critical to your success, what is needed, from who, and when.• Describe the programs and any feedback you have received from staff, students, or the community that could support the value of the programs.• Explain why the programs have been impactful for the HBCU, its partners, and students.• Describe the student groups you targeted for this program, how you conducted outreach efforts to tell students about this program, how you marketed the program, etc.	A single score on a scale of 1–6 is provided, taking the following statements into consideration: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The HBCU has proven that they have made significant progress toward the programs' integration, development, and implementation.• The HBCU partners remain committed to the success of these programs and have the experiences to help implement the programs.• The activities implemented over the course of the prize have showcased a successful program with the potential for sustained success for both the HBCU, its partners, and the relevant students.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Provide information about how many students have already participated in the program. ● Provide metrics and verification that showcase the success of the program so far (i.e., how many students have been positively impacted, dollars that went directly to student programming, satisfaction metrics, participation metrics, outreach efforts, social media hits, press releases, event information, etc.) 	
Question 2: Future Programming Commitment – How will you continue to build on the success of the programming and partnerships?	
<p>Suggested content the applicant provides may:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Provide information and lessons learned that you have collected that will help inform future programming and/or changes to the programs you have implemented so far. ● Describe the future steps you are taking to continue the programming and partnerships. ● Describe the additional resources that your HBCU and partners need to continue to build on the programmatic successes ● Describe your ideas for additional HBCU tools, opportunities, and programming that may lead to improved partnerships and collaborations. ● Describe any additional partnerships you are seeking. ● Provide any metrics you have that can show potential for impact and students served and what metrics you are planning to continue to track into the future. 	<p>A single score on a scale of 1–6 is provided, taking the following statements into consideration:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The program implemented through the prize has a clear path for a successful sustained outcomes for the HBCU, its partners, and the relevant students. ● The partners continue to be engaged and committed to the programs’ success. ● The future plans have been well thought out and a viable plan of action is being implemented. ● The HBCU has accounted for and considered lessons learned, new partnership opportunities, and new opportunities to leverage additional resources and is adequately adapting their programming to improve the impact, and number, of students served.
Reviewer Recommendation	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● There is no direct corresponding submission requirement for this score. Rather, it is an overall assessment of all materials submitted in HeroX. 	<p>A single score of either 1 <u>or</u> 6 is provided, taking the following statement into consideration:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The HBCU should be strongly considered for a prize.

3.6.4 Letter of Support from the HBCU Administration (Required)

Attach a one-page letter of support from a top-ranking official from the HBCU’s administration (e.g. president or dean) that provides the institution’s support for competing in the prize and signifying support for the new programming. An individual letter of support is required from every HBCU that is participating

as part of the team or consortium. All single-page letters of support should be combined into one PDF document and submitted together.

3.6.5 Letters of Support or Partnership (Required)

Letters to support the partnerships created during this phase of the prize are required to strengthen and support the submission. Attach one-page letters (of support, partnership, or commitment) from other relevant entities to provide context. Letters of support from partners or others who are critical to the success of your proposed program will enhance your proposal. General letters of support from parties that are not critical to the execution of your solution will likely not factor into your score. Do not submit multipage letters. All single-page letters of support should be combined into one PDF document and submitted together.

3.7 How We Determine and Award Winners

The Prize Administrator screens all completed submissions and ensures the teams are eligible. Then the Prize Administrator, in consultation with DOE, assigns subject-matter-expert reviewers who independently score the content of each submission. The reviewers will be composed of federal and nonfederal subject-matter experts. They will review the competitors' submitted materials according to the evaluation criteria.

3.7.1 Reviewer Panel Scoring

The scoring of submissions will proceed as follows:

- Experts will review each submission individually and assess the response from the competitor to each statement in the criteria described in the tables in this document.
- Reviewers will score each section on a scale of 1–6, depending on the degree to which the reviewer agrees the submission reflects the statements for consideration.
- The individual section scores will be summed to generate a total score for the submission.
- The total scores from all reviewers will be averaged to produce a final score for each applicant. This score will inform the reviewers' decisions on prize awards.

3.8.1 Interviews

DOE may decide to interview a subset of applicants. The interviews would be held before the announcement of the winners and would serve to help clarify questions the reviewers may have. Participating in interviews is not required, and interviews are not an indication of a competitor's likelihood to win.

3.9 Final Determination and Announcement

DOE will designate a federal employee as the judge before the final determination of the winners. Final determination of the winners by the judge will consider the reviewers' feedback and scores, application of program policy factors, and the interview findings (if applicable).

Approximately 60 days after the contest closes, the Prize Administrator will notify the winners and request the information needed to distribute the awards. The Prize Administrator will then publicly announce the winners.

4 Additional Terms and Conditions

See the Appendix: Additional Terms and Conditions for additional requirements.

**COMPETITORS THAT DO NOT COMPLY WITH THE ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS IN THE Appendix:
Additional Terms and Conditions **MAY BE DISQUALIFIED.****

Appendix: Additional Terms and Conditions

A.1 Requirements

Your submission for the Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) Clean Energy Education Prize is subject to the following terms and conditions:

- You must post the final content of your submission or upload the submission form online, before the prize submission period closes. Late submissions or any other form of submission may be rejected.
- All submissions that you wish to protect from public disclosure must be marked according to the instructions in Section A.10 Records Retention and Freedom of Information Act. Unmarked or improperly marked submissions will be deemed to have been provided with unlimited rights and may be used in any manner and for any purpose whatsoever.
- You must include all the required elements in your submission. The Prize Administrator may disqualify your submission after an initial screening if you fail to provide all required submission elements. Competitors may be given an opportunity to rectify submission errors due to technical challenges.
- Your submission must be in English and in a format readable by Microsoft Word or Adobe PDF. Scanned handwritten submissions will be disqualified.
- Submissions will be disqualified if they contain any matter that, in the sole discretion of the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) or the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL), is indecent, obscene, defamatory, libelous, and/or lacking in professionalism, or demonstrates a lack of respect for people or life on this planet.
- If you click "Accept" on the HeroX platform and proceed to register for any of the awards described in this document, these rules will form a valid and binding agreement between you and DOE and are in addition to the existing HeroX Terms of Use for all purposes relating to these contests. You should print and keep a copy of these rules. These provisions only apply to the prize described here and no other prize on the HeroX platform or anywhere else.
- The Prize Administrator, when feasible, may give competitors an opportunity to fix nonsubstantive mistakes or errors in their submission packages.
- As part of your submission to this prize, you will be required to sign the following statement:

I am providing this submission package as part of my participation in this prize. I understand that I am providing this submission to the federal government. I certify under penalty of perjury that the named competitor meets the eligibility requirements for this prize competition and complies with all other rules contained in the Official Rules document. I further represent that the information contained in the submission is true and contains no misrepresentations. I understand false statements or misrepresentations to the federal government may result in civil and/or criminal penalties under 18 U.S.C. § 1001 and § 287, and 31 U.S.C. §§ 3729-3733 and 3801-3812.

A.2 Verification for Payments

The Prize Administrator will verify the identity and role of all competitors before distributing any awards. Receiving a prize payment is contingent on fulfilling all requirements contained herein. The Prize Administrator will notify winning competitors using email contact information provided for the individual or entity that was responsible for the submission. Each competitor will be required to sign and return to the Prize Administrator, within 30 days of the date on the notice, a completed NREL Request for ACH

[Automated Clearing House] Banking Information form and a completed W9 form (<https://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/fw9.pdf>). In the sole discretion of the Prize Administrator, a winning competitor will be disqualified from the competition and receive no prize funds if (i) the person/entity does not respond to notifications, (ii) the person/entity fails to sign and return the required documentation within the required period, (iii) the notification is returned as undeliverable, or (iv) the submission or person/entity is disqualified for any other reason.

In the event of a dispute as to any registration, the authorized account holder of the email address used to register will be deemed to be the competitor. The “authorized account holder” is the natural person or legal entity assigned an email address by an internet access provider, online service provider, or other organization responsible for assigning email addresses for the domain associated with the submitted address. All competitors may be required to show proof of being the authorized account holder.

A.3 Teams and Single-Entity Awards

The Prize Administrator will award a single dollar amount to the designated primary submitter, whether it consists of a single entity or multiple entities. The primary submitter is solely responsible for allocating any prize funds among its member competitors or teammates as they deem appropriate. The Prize Administrator will not arbitrate, intervene, advise on, or resolve any matters or disputes between team members or competitors.

A.4 Submission Rights

By making a submission and consenting to the rules of the contest, a competitor is granting to DOE, the Prize Administrator, and any other third parties supporting DOE in the contest, a license to display publicly and use the parts of the submission that are designated as “public” for government purposes. This license includes posting or linking to the public portions of the submission on the Prize Administrator or HeroX applications, including the contest website, DOE websites, and partner websites, and the inclusion of the submission in any other media worldwide. The submission may be viewed by DOE, Prize Administrator, and judges and reviewers for purposes of the contests, including screening and evaluation purposes. The Prize Administrator and any third parties acting on their behalf will also have the right to publicize competitors’ names and, as applicable, the names of competitors’ team members and organization that participated in the submission on the contest website indefinitely.

By entering, the competitor represents and warrants that:

1. The competitor’s entire submission is an original work by the competitor, and the competitor has not included third-party content (e.g., writing, text, graphics, artwork, logos, photographs, likeness of any third party, musical recordings, clips of videos, television programs or motion pictures) in or in connection with the submission, unless (i) otherwise requested by the Prize Administrator and/or disclosed by the competitor in the submission, and (ii) the competitor has either obtained the rights to use such third-party content, or the content of the submission is considered in the public domain without any limitations on use.
2. Unless otherwise disclosed in the submission, the use thereof by the Prize Administrator, or the exercise by the Prize Administrator of any of the rights granted by the competitor under these rules, does not and will not infringe or violate any rights of any third party or entity, including, without limitation, patent, copyright, trademark, trade secret, defamation, privacy, publicity, false light, misappropriation, intentional or negligent infliction of emotional distress, confidentiality, or any contractual or other rights.
3. All persons who were engaged by the competitor to work on the submission or who appear in the submission in any manner have:

- a. Given the competitor their express written consent to submit the submission for exhibition and other exploitation in any manner and in any and all media, whether now existing or hereafter discovered, throughout the world.
- b. Provided written permission to include their name, image, or pictures in or with the submission (or, if a minor who is not the competitor's child, the competitor must have the permission of the minor's parent or legal guardian), and the competitor may be asked by the Prize Administrator to provide permission in writing.
- c. Not been and are not currently under any union or guild agreement that results in any ongoing obligations resulting from the use, exhibition, or other exploitation of the submission.

A.5 Copyright

Each competitor represents and warrants that the competitor is the sole author and copyright owner of the submission; the submission is an original work of the competitor, or the competitor has acquired sufficient rights to use and to authorize others, including DOE, to use the submission as specified throughout the rules; the submission does not infringe on any copyright or any other third-party rights of which the competitor is aware; and the submission is free of malware.

A.6 Contest Subject to Applicable Law

All contests are subject to all applicable federal laws and regulations. Participation constitutes each participant's full and unconditional agreement to these Official Rules and administrative decisions, which are final and binding in all matters related to the contest. This notice is not an obligation of funds; the final award is contingent on the availability of appropriations.

A.7 Resolution of Disputes

DOE is solely responsible for administrative decisions, which are final and binding in all matters related to the contest.

Neither DOE nor the Prize Administrator will arbitrate, intervene, advise on, or resolve any matters between team members or among competitors.

A.8 Publicity

The winners of these awards (collectively, "winners") will be featured on DOE and NREL websites.

Except where prohibited, participation in the contest constitutes each winner's consent to DOE and its agents' use of each winner's name, likeness, photograph, voice, opinions, and/or hometown and state information for promotional purposes through any form of media worldwide, without further permission, payment, or consideration.

A.9 Liability

Upon registration, all participants agree to assume any and all risks of injury or loss in connection with or in any way arising from participation in this contest. Upon registration, except in the case of willful misconduct, all participants agree to and thereby do waive and release any and all claims or causes of action against the federal government and its officers, employees, and agents for any and all injury and damage of any nature whatsoever (whether existing or thereafter arising, whether direct, indirect, or consequential, and whether foreseeable or not) arising from their participation in the contest, whether the claim or cause of action arises under contract or tort.

In accordance with the delegation of authority to run this contest delegated to the judge responsible for this prize, the judge has determined that no liability insurance naming DOE as an insured will be required of competitors to compete in this competition per 15 U.S.C. § 3719(i)(2). Competitors should assess the risks associated with their proposed activities and adequately insure themselves against possible losses.

A.10 Records Retention and Freedom of Information Act

All materials submitted to DOE as part of a submission become DOE records and are subject to the Freedom of Information Act. The following applies only to portions of the submission not designated as public information in the instructions for submission. If a submission includes trade secrets or information that is commercial or financial, or information that is confidential or privileged, it is furnished to the government in confidence with the understanding that the information shall be used or disclosed only for evaluation of the application. Such information will be withheld from public disclosure to the extent permitted by law, including the Freedom of Information Act. Without assuming any liability for inadvertent disclosure, DOE will seek to limit disclosure of such information to its employees and to outside reviewers when necessary for review of the application or as otherwise authorized by law. This restriction does not limit the government's right to use the information if it is obtained from another source.

Submissions containing confidential, proprietary, or privileged information must be marked as described below. Failure to comply with these marking requirements may result in the disclosure of the unmarked information under the Freedom of Information Act or otherwise. The U.S. government is not liable for the disclosure or use of unmarked information and may use or disclose such information for any purpose.

The submission must be marked as follows, identifying the specific pages containing trade secrets, confidential, proprietary, or privileged information: "Notice of Restriction on Disclosure and Use of Data: Pages [list applicable pages] of this document may contain trade secrets, confidential, proprietary, or privileged information that is exempt from public disclosure. Such information shall be used or disclosed only for evaluation purposes. [End of Notice]"

The header and footer of every page that contains confidential, proprietary, or privileged information must be marked as "Contains Trade Secrets, Confidential, Proprietary, or Privileged Information Exempt from Public Disclosure." In addition, each line or paragraph containing proprietary, privileged, or trade secret information must be clearly marked with double brackets.

Competitors will be notified of any Freedom of Information Act requests for their submissions in accordance with 29 C.F.R. § 70.26. Competitors may then have the opportunity to review materials and work with a Freedom of Information Act representative before the release of materials. DOE does intend to keep all submission materials private except materials designated as "will be made public."

A.11 Privacy

If you choose to provide HeroX with personal information by registering or completing the submission package through the contest website, you understand that such information will be transmitted to DOE and may be kept in a system of records. Such information will be used only to respond to you in matters regarding your submission and/or the contest unless you choose to receive updates or notifications about other contests or programs from DOE on an opt-in basis. DOE and NREL do not collect any information for commercial marketing.

A.12 General Conditions

DOE reserves the right to cancel, suspend, and/or modify the prize, or any part of it, at any time. If any fraud, technical failures, or any other factor beyond DOE's reasonable control impairs the integrity or proper functioning of the prize, as determined by DOE in its sole discretion, DOE may cancel the prize. Any performance toward prize goals is conducted entirely at the risk of the competitor, and DOE shall not compensate any competitors for any activities performed in furtherance of this prize.

Although DOE may indicate that it will select up to several winners for each prize, DOE reserves the right to only select competitors that are likely to achieve the goals of the program. If, in DOE's determination, no competitors are likely to achieve the goals of the program, DOE will select no competitors to be winners and will award no prize money.

DOE may conduct a risk review, using Government resources, of the competitor and project personnel for potential risks of foreign interference. The outcomes of the risk review may result in the submission being eliminated from the prize competition. This risk review, and potential elimination, can occur at any time during the prize competition. An elimination based on a risk review is not appealable.

A.13 Program Policy Factors

Though the scores of the expert reviewers will be carefully considered, it is the role of the prize reviewer to maximize the impact of prize funds. Some factors outside the control of competitors and beyond the independent expert reviewer scope of review may need to be considered to accomplish this goal. The following is a list of such factors. In addition to the reviewers' scores, the below program policy factors may be considered in determining winners:

- Geographic diversity and potential economic impact of projects.
- Whether the use of additional DOE funds and provided resources are non-duplicative and compatible with the stated goals of this program and the DOE mission generally.
- The degree to which the submission exhibits technological or programmatic diversity when compared to the existing DOE project portfolio and other competitors.
- The degree to which the submission is likely to lead to increased employment and manufacturing in the United States or provide other economic benefits to U.S. taxpayers.
- The degree to which the submission will accelerate transformational technological, financial, or workforce advances in areas that industry by itself is not likely to undertake because of technical or financial uncertainty.
- The degree to which the submission supports complementary DOE-funded efforts or projects that, when taken together, will best achieve the goals and objectives of DOE.
- The degree to which the submission expands DOE's funding to new competitors and recipients who have not been supported by DOE in the past.
- The degree to which the submission enables new and expanding market segments.
- Whether the project promotes increased coordination with nongovernmental entities toward enabling a just and equitable clean energy economy in their region and/or community.

A.14 National Environmental Policy Act Compliance

This prize is subject to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) (42 U.S.C. § 4321, et seq.). NEPA requires federal agencies to integrate environmental values into their decision-making processes by considering the potential environmental impacts of their proposed actions. For additional background on NEPA, see DOE's NEPA website at <http://nepa.energy.gov/>.

Though NEPA compliance is a federal agency responsibility and the ultimate decisions remain with the federal agency, all participants in the HBCU Clean Energy Education Prize will be required to assist in the timely and effective completion of the NEPA process in the manner most pertinent to their participation in the prize competition. Participants may be asked to provide DOE with information on fabrication and testing of their concept such that DOE can conduct a meaningful evaluation of the potential environmental impacts.

A.15 Return of Funds

As a condition of receiving a prize, competitors agree that if the prize was made based on fraudulent or inaccurate information provided by the competitor to DOE, DOE has the right to demand that any prize funds or the value of other noncash awards be returned to the government.

ALL DECISIONS BY DOE ARE FINAL AND BINDING IN ALL MATTERS RELATED TO THE PRIZE.