The UT African American Male Research Initiative (AAMRI) is a faculty-led academic initiative rooted in evidence-based practices to promote academic excellence among African American males. AAMRI includes a research focus, too, that informs public policy experts, practitioners, and concerned citizens on how best to create and maintain a culture of Black male excellence in K-16 settings. This research guides our hands-on practical approach to help AAMRI achieve its major goals: to increase the four-year graduation rate for African American males at the University of Texas and to increase the number of Black males attending four-year colleges and universities across the state of Texas.

Housed in the Division of Diversity and Community Engagement, AAMRI partners with local and national organizations such as the Todd A. Bell National Resource Center for the African American Male at the Ohio State University, Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity, 100 Black Men, the African American Youth Harvest Foundation, the University of Texas Chapter of the Student African American Brotherhood (SAAB), and the men of the W.E.B. DuBois Honors Program at Huston-Tillotson University. Through these partnerships, AAMRI provides professional development and special events for undergraduates and opportunities for the undergrads to mentor younger African American males. We hope you will join us in helping to advance educational opportunities that lead to academic success and a culture of excellence for African American males.

Dr. Gregory J. Vincent
Vice President for Diversity and Community Engagement
W.K. Kellogg Professor in Community College Leadership
Professor of Law

AAMRI: Black Male Excellence Redefined

LEONARD N. MOORE, PH.D., Senior Associate Vice President for Academic Diversity Initiatives and Student Engagement, Professor of History, Director AAMRI
Leonard N. Moore is currently the senior associate vice-president for academic diversity initiatives at The University of Texas at Austin and a full professor in the Department of History. The Cleveland, Ohio, native earned his undergraduate degree from Jackson State University in 1993 and his Ph.D. from the Ohio State University in 1998. He teaches History of the Black Power Movement and Race in the Age of Obama, and he directs study abroad programs in Beijing and Cape Town.

JAMES C. BROWN, PH.D., Instructional Support Coordinator, STEM
After a distinguished career in the tech industry working in research and development at Motorola, Honeywell and 3M, Dr. Brown currently leads the STEM initiative in the Longhorn Center for Academic Excellence. Brown earned his bachelor's degree from Princeton and his doctorate in physics from Cornell University. Dr. Brown has been hugely successful helping first-generation students succeed academically and credits his success to a “hands-on” approach to teaching and learning.

LOUIS HARRISON, PH.D., Professor, College of Education
Louis Harrison, Jr. is currently a full professor in the Department of Curriculum and Instruction at The University of Texas at Austin. A native of New Orleans, Dr. Harrison is the nation’s leading expert on racial identity and the African American athlete. He earned his undergraduate degree from the University of New Orleans and his Ph.D. from LSU in 1997. He has published widely and is in demand as a speaker, lecturer, and researcher. In addition to his responsibilities at UT, he also serves as pastor of Greater Bethany Baptist Church in Elgin, Texas.

DARREN KELLY, PH.D., Chief of Staff, Academic Diversity Initiatives, Director, McNair Scholars Program, Assistant Director, AAMRI
Darren Kelly, a native of Orange County, California, earned a bachelor’s degree in finance and marketing from the University of Virginia. After graduating from UVA he spent several years working in corporate finance for GE, which included a special assignment in Shanghai, China. In 2012 he earned his Ph.D. from The University of Texas at Austin in sports management. Dr. Kelly also directs the Ronald E. McNair Scholars Program.
AAMRI LEADERSHIP TEAM (CONT’D)

PATRICK K. PATTERSON, Assistant Vice President for School Partnerships
Patrick K. Patterson oversees all of the DDCE’s pre-college academic readiness programs including five UT Outreach Centers, Advise Texas, the Neighborhood Longhorns Program, ChemBridge and Students Partnering for Undergraduate Rhetoric Success (SPURS). He earned his master’s degree in education from Chicago State University and was the highly acclaimed principal at Austin’s LBJ High School for six years and was named the state’s Administrator of the Year in 2010.

DARON ROBERTS, J.D., AAMRI Scholar-In Residence; Lecturer, Humanities Honors Program
Roberts has spent the past seven years as an NFL and college coach serving stints with the Kansas City Chiefs, Detroit Lions, West Virginia Mountaineers and Cleveland Browns. He is an AAMRI Scholar-In Residence, holds a B.A. in Plan II Honors and government from the University of Texas, master’s from the Kennedy School of Government and law degree from Harvard Law School. He is the founder and CEO of 4th and 1, Inc.—a nonprofit that provides free SAT prep, football training and life skills workshops. Roberts is currently a lecturer at The University of Texas at Austin.

AAMRI GRADUATE ASSISTANTS

CHARLES BAILEY, San Antonio, Texas
Charles earned his bachelor’s degree from the University of Texas as an African and African Diaspora studies major. Charles is currently pursuing a master’s degree in curriculum and instruction with a concentration in cultural studies.

LANGSTON CLARK, Plainsboro, New Jersey
Langston earned his undergraduate degree at North Carolina A&T University and his master’s degree at the Ohio State University. He is currently completing his Ph.D. in curriculum and instruction. He is a former high school teacher.

DALLAWRENCE DEAN, Fort Collins, Colorado
Dallawrence is pursuing a Ph.D. in higher education leadership and is a program coordinator with the Longhorn Link program. He earned his undergraduate degree at Colorado State University and his master’s degree at Michigan State University. He is a member of Alpha Phi Alpha.

ANTHONY HEAVEN, Detroit, Michigan
Anthony earned his undergraduate degree at Stillman College, where he also served as Student Government president. He is pursuing a Ph.D. in higher education administration and he is a member of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc.

ALVIN LOGAN, Denver, Colorado
Alvin earned his bachelor’s and master’s degrees at the University of Washington where he also played linebacker on the Huskies football team. He is a member of Kappa Alpha Psi and he is pursuing a Ph.D. in curriculum and instruction.

CAMERON McCOY, Washington, D.C.
Cameron is a doctoral student in the Department of History. He earned his undergraduate degree at BYU and his master’s degree at Texas A&M. He is a major in the U.S. Marine Corps and has completed three tours of duty in Iraq.

MARTIN SMITH, San Diego, California
Martin earned his bachelor’s and master’s degrees at the University of California-Berkeley, where he was also a member of the Cal basketball team. He is a Ph.D. student in the Department of Curriculum and Instruction.

NEIL TANNER, Arlington, Texas
Neil is working on a master’s degree in curriculum and instruction. He earned his undergraduate degree from the UT McCombs School of Business. He served as president of both the Student African American Brotherhood (SAAB) and the UT chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi, Inc.

DEVIN WALKER, Los Angeles, California
Devin earned his undergraduate degree at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Upon graduation he worked as a college advisor with the Posse Foundation. He has extensive experience working and living abroad. He is working on a master’s degree in the Department of Curriculum and Instruction.

PROGRAMS AND SERVICES
• Academic coaching and advising
• Free and unlimited tutoring
• Weekly empowerment meetings
• Monthly professional development workshops
• Undergraduate research lab on Black males
• Leadership Institute
• Internship program
• Student-athlete programming
• Study abroad
• College for a Day program
• Campus visitation hosting

For more information contact us at (512) 471-1205, or by email at aamri@austin.utexas.edu

The African American Male Research Initiative (AAMRI) is housed within the Division of Diversity and Community Engagement at The University of Texas at Austin. Although AAMRI focuses on African American males, our services are open to anyone regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, or other personal identities.