



Welcome to the Center for Excellence in Public and Government Service Monthly Newsletter!

Here, you will learn about the latest developments, programs, and initiatives from the Center for Excellence (CFE). Our mission is to expand education and provide developmental activities at Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) to foster a network of collaboration with government and other civic engagement organizations.

S.L.I.C.E. of ADVICE

Service. Leadership. Integrity. Courage. Excellence.

February Highlights

February 27, 2026

Building Relationships

Show up authentically in all your interactions. Genuine connections are built on honesty and openness, so don't be afraid to be yourself.

Learn the art of effective communication. Listening well and expressing yourself clearly will help you build trust and strong relationships.

Involve yourself in campus groups, community organizations, or volunteer opportunities. These connections will enrich your experience and expand your network.

Collaborate with peers on projects or study groups; teamwork often leads to new ideas and deeper learning.

Engage with mentors and professionals who can provide guidance, support, and encouragement on your journey.

- Center for Excellence in Public & Government Service Team

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Center For Excellence in Public and Government Service

Atlanta University Center Consortium, Inc.

Student Spotlight

A.T.I. Scholar, Cohort II | Civil Engineering, Hampton University

Graduate OF THE COHORT

HAMPTON UNIVERSITY

Joy Williams
Hampton University

A.T.I. Summer Leadership Training
Aretes, Telos, Integritas: Excellence, Purpose, and Integrity

A.T.I. Summer Leadership Training is a transformation program that will train, expose, and prepare HBCU scholars to flourish in Public Service.

This month, as we celebrate Black History Month and the power of Building Relationships, we proudly highlight Joy Williams, an A.T.I. Scholar whose journey reflects brilliance, resilience, and intentional collaboration.

From the age of 10, Joy’s curiosity for robotics and engineering ignited a lifelong passion for understanding complex systems. By 16, she had constructed her own functional Voltaic Pile using copper pennies, aluminum foil, and vinegar-soaked cardboard, demonstrating electrochemistry and direct current generation through hands on experimentation. Her early innovation reflects not just talent, but discipline and self-directed learning.

Mentorship and Representation Matter

Joy credits much of her growth to the mentors and

networks who poured into her academic and professional journey. Encouraged by professors and research leaders to pursue questions without easy answers, she embraced research beyond the classroom.

As a Black woman in STEM, representation has been powerful. Inspired by pioneers like:

- Katherine Johnson
- Mary Jackson

Joy sees her work not as an individual accomplishment, but as part of a living legacy of Black excellence in science and engineering.

Collaboration Opens Doors

Serving as Miss NSBE within the National Society of Black Engineers, Joy has built meaningful relationships that extend beyond the classroom. Through leadership, workshops, and industry networking, she learned that collaboration requires trust, adaptability, and shared vision.

Her interdisciplinary research, ranging from orbital dynamics modeling to simulating Markov Decision Processes for NASA missions, demonstrates that complex challenges are never solved in isolation. They require ecosystems of thinkers, builders, and leaders.

Science, Policy and Service

Joy’s published research on shallow water equatorial waves connects mathematical theory to real world impact, including climate modeling, environmental policy, coastal resilience, and disaster preparedness.

Her vision is clear: engineering shapes society. Representation shifts expectations. And relationships transform access.

“Breakthroughs in science are powerful, but breakthroughs in access are transformational.”

Joy’s Advice to Emerging Scholars

- Lead with curiosity, not ego.
- Learn the language of other disciplines.
- Invest in relationships before you need them.
- Protect your intellectual identity.
- Think long term, not transactional



Joy reminds us that leadership is not about standing in the spotlight alone. It is about building pipelines, sharing opportunities, and running the race with purpose and love.

Final Reflection

Joy Williams embodies what this month's theme calls us to remember: strong relationships create ecosystems of excellence.

She is not simply publishing research. She is expanding what leadership in engineering looks like, inspiring the next generation of Black scholars to see themselves as creators, innovators, and trailblazers.

Existence of Solutions for Shallow Water Equatorial Waves- Joy Williams

Internships and more!

Discover a world of career possibilities with the [USAJOBS Federal Internship Portal](#)! Whether you're a student or recent graduate, this platform is your gateway to exciting federal internship opportunities across diverse fields. Explore internships that offer hands-on experience, professional growth, and the chance to make a real impact in government agencies. Visit the USAJOBS Federal Internship Portal today to connect with valuable opportunities, gain insights into the federal workforce, and kickstart your career journey.

Your future in public service begins here!

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Center for Excellence in Public and Government Service

We empower and equip HBCU students to transition from scholars on College Hill to transformational leaders of Capitol Hill.

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