



## NASA funds Lab collaborations with black universities

Three proposals developed with the LLNL Research Collaborations Program for Historically Black Colleges and Universities and Minority Institutions have been selected for funding by NASA.

The proposals were submitted for NASA's Minority University Partnership Initiative in Space Science. This new NASA initiative is directed at developing space-science capabilities at minority universities, through partnerships in research and education with research groups at NASA Centers and federal laboratories.

A total of 60 proposals were submitted nationwide and only 15 were selected for funding. Twenty percent of the total successful proposals nationwide were associated with the LLNL Research Collaborations Program for Historically Black Colleges and Universities and Minority Institutions (HBCUs and MIs).

Two of these successful proposals are funded at \$225,000/year for three years, and a third is funded at \$245,000/year for three years, beginning in January.

Some of the funds from these grants will come to LLNL to help support time and travel for some Lab participants, and to support students from the universities when they come to work at LLNL. The Laboratory will also gain the benefit of the expertise and manpower of the



**Kennedy Reed**

university professors who will collaborate with Lab scientists on the research.

The Research Collaborations Program for HBCUs and MIs is directed by V Division physicist Kennedy Reed, and is in the Lab's University Relations Program. The Research Collaborations Program couples accomplished faculty and students from minority institutions with LLNL scientists in research that benefits

LLNL and the universities.

The professors and students in this program have made strong contributions to basic and applied research at LLNL, and the involvement with the Lab has in turn enhanced the research and training capabilities of the schools, Reed said.

There have been numerous joint publications on the collaborative research, and a significant number of the undergraduate participants in the program have gone on to graduate school in the physical sciences.

The three proposals selected by NASA for awards are:

- "Collision Processes in Astrophysical Plasmas," with principal investigator Charles Weatherford of Florida A&M University and LLNL co-PIs Peter Beiersdorfer (V Division) and Burke Ritchie (A Division);

- "Enhancement of the Space Science Research Program at South Carolina State University," with principal investigator Donald Walker of South Carolina State University and LLNL co-PIs Simon Labov (V Division) and Kem Cook (V Division);

- "Space Science Education and the Sun-Earth Connection," with principal investigator Ravindra Lal of Alabama A&M University and LLNL co-PI Bala Govindasamy (Atmospheric Science Division).