



The Dudley L. Woodard Scholars Program

Idris Stovall

The Franklin Institute / University of Pennsylvania
istovall@math.upenn.edu

The *Dudley L. Woodard Scholars Program*, or Woodard Program for short, has the primary goal of increasing the number of underrepresented minorities that earn advanced degrees and ultimately obtain careers in the mathematical sciences. This ambitious goal is inspired by Professor Dudley L. Woodard, the *first* African American to earn a PhD in mathematics from The University of Pennsylvania. He is also the *second* African American in the United States to do so. Dr. Woodard was both the Chair of the Department of Mathematics and later the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at Howard University. While there, he also mentored students who became the third and fourth African Americans nationally to obtain mathematics PhDs from the Mathematics Department at Pennsylvania. In this talk, the broader vision and components of the Woodard Program are detailed. Also, connections are made between Woodard's Ph.D. advisor and the modern-day CAARMS community. Finally, the results and outcomes of the pilot year Woodard program are presented.

Biography

Idris Stovall was born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. He earned his BS in mathematics from Hampton University and his PhD in computational methods for solving differential equations from the Department of Mathematics at the University of Massachusetts – Amherst. Dr. Stovall is the first African American to earn a PhD from that department. He has dedicated his career to training young, motivated, under-represented minority students for excellence in their pursuit of higher education and careers in the mathematical sciences. In addition to being a member of *Penn's Department of Mathematics*, Dr. Stovall has directed the Moelis Access Science Program that mobilizes Penn and its STEM resources to several public K12 schools in West Philadelphia. Most recently, he has served as mathematician and director of Youth Programs at *The Franklin Institute*, a premier science center working with motivated youth across the city of Philadelphia.