

HAMPTON VA

NEWS RELEASE

For immediate release

Fred Gaskins | fgaskins@hampton.gov | 757-727-6191
22 Lincoln Street | Hampton, VA 23669

Hampton honored as top supporter of engineering program at historically black colleges

June 8, 2016 - The City of Hampton is the only municipality recently honored as a “top supporter” of engineering programs at one of the nation’s historically black colleges and universities.

The list of nearly 100 organizations and agencies honored as “top supporter” includes NASA, IBM, Huntington Ingalls Industries Inc., Boston Scientific Corporation and the U.S. Department of Defense.

The honor is based on a survey of 15 HBCU deans and members of a corporate/academic alliance called Advancing Minorities’ Interest in Engineering. It was announced by Career Communications Group, publisher of “US Black Engineer & Information Technology,” an engineering magazine.

“Throughout history, our city has recognized and appreciated the asset that is Hampton University,” said Hampton Mayor George Wallace. “For 49 years we have partnered with the university to produce the nationally acclaimed Hampton Jazz Festival. We will continue to look for opportunities to expand and enhance our support for the students and all of their programs. We appreciate the honor.”

Eric Sheppard, dean of the School of Engineering and Technology at Hampton University, said: “Our students benefit a great deal from direct interactions with the city acting as a customer, and the feedback from the city on their designs is important both for their education and for their sense of working with their community.

“Last fall, for example, the city supported a student design project for the proposed MLK monument at the convention center,” said Sheppard, who nominated Hampton as a top supporter.

Tyrone D. Taborn, publisher and CEO of Career Communications, said they “are consistently finding many organizations that are doing more than their share in building the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) pipeline.”

Hampton is included in a “Top Supporter” list featured in US Black Engineers magazine this spring, and will be recognized at the first annual HBCU Innovation Day next year in Washington.

###