Inter-university Partnership Study: An Investigation of Historically Black Colleges and Universities(HBCU)-Primarily White Institutions (PWI) Inter-University Partnerships

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Background

- Study was conceptualized when I was a RA on the NCSU IUCRC Evaluation Team and shared at one one the IUCRC Evaluation Meetings

- Project was funded and completed under NSF STC support

- Presentation provides an update on what was found

Problem Statement

The number of partnerships between HBCUs and PWIs appear to be increasing dramatically but we know little about how well they are working and what affects satisfaction and "success".

- Many of the partnerships are center-based

"I just would never have anything to do with that administration again." –PWI PI

"There are strengths at (the HBCU). (Faculty at the HBCU) have complementary interests.

So there are natural reasons for having this to happen." –PWI PI

Goal & Objectives of Research

- *Goal:* to better understand HBCU-PWI partnerships

- *Objectives:*

    1. To describe HBCU-PWI partnerships according to their structural and procedural characteristics

    2. To make comparisons among HBCUs and PWIs in HBCU-PWI partnerships and PWIs in PWI-PWI partnerships on structural, process and outcome variables

    3. To determine which factors predict PI satisfaction and perceptions of partnership success

Research Methodology

– Data Sources:

» Websites on sponsored research

» Websites giving basic university information (classification, location, distance between universities, etc.)

» Interview-based Survey Instrument

» Open-ended items

» Forced-choice items

» Analyses

» Factor analysis to produce scales (Six scales)

» Comparative and predictive statistics (p=.10)

Objective 1 – Partnership Descriptions:
Structural Characteristics

	HBCUs (n=8)	PWIs (n=8)	PWI2s (n=10)
Mean number of Partners	4.00	4.63	5.00
Mean % of funding allotted to university	45.31	51.13[a]	24.90[a]
Number of involved faculty *M (SD)*	9.63 (8.63)[a b]	2.88 (1.96)[a]	3.10 (2.96)[b]
Number of involved students across all universities *M (SD)*	55.75 (64.76)[a]	21.37 (40.36)	7.50 (5.10)[a]
% of African American PI respondents	50	0	0

[a] $p < .10$
[b] $p < .05$

Objective 1 – Partnership Descriptors:
Partnership Goals

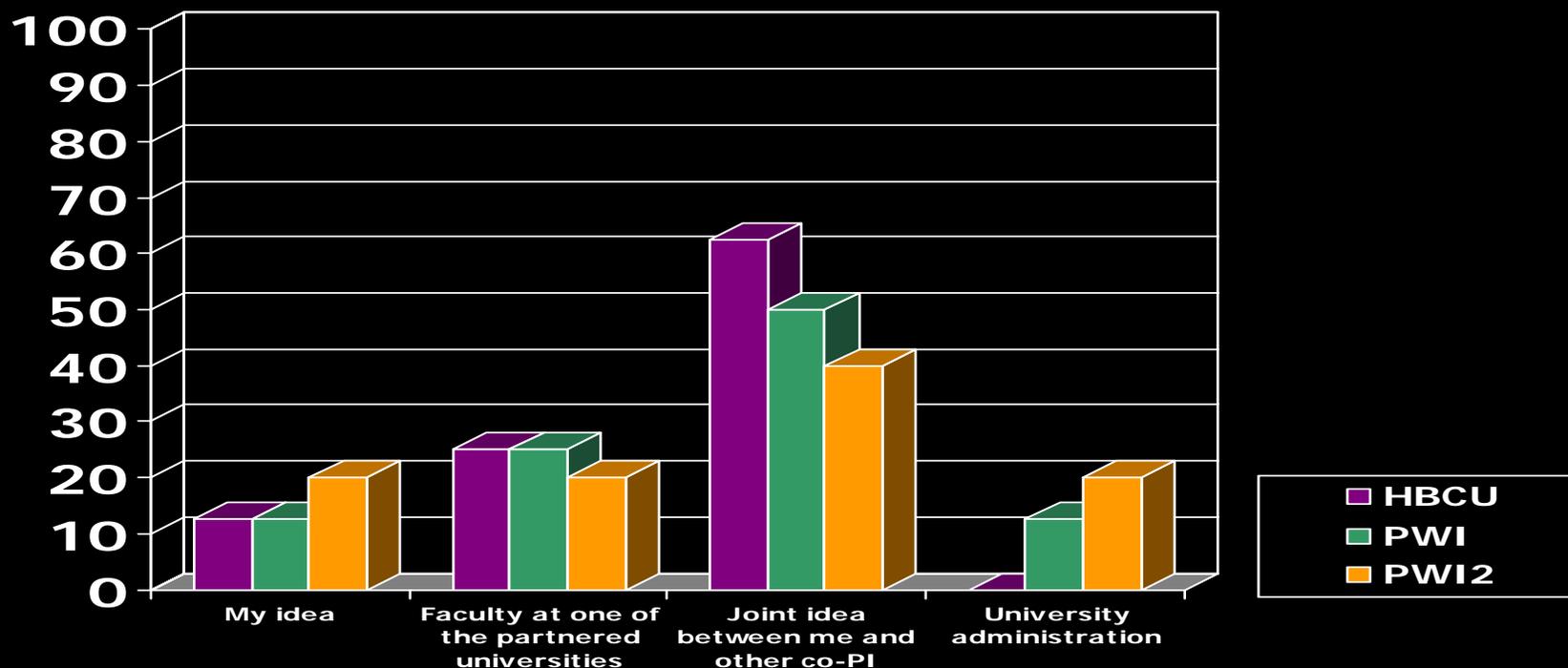|	HBCUs (n=8)	PWIs (n=8)	PWI2s (n=10)
Research training of undergraduate and graduate students	4.20 (1.04)[a]	4.25 (1.16)[b]	3.00 (0.94)[a b]
The development of curriculum	3.63 (1.30)[a]	2.88 (1.55)[b]	1.20 (0.63)[a b]
The research training or education of underrepresented groups	4.50 (0.76)[a]	4.13 (1.36)[b]	2.00 (1.56)[a b]

[a] *significant differences lie between the HBCU PI and PWI2 groups (p<.01).*
[b] *significant differences lie between the PWI PI and PWI2 groups (p<.01).*

Objective 2 – Comparisons:

Motivations for Partnering

"It makes sense to partner. It's a economic use of resources and the other universities have strengths and resources that I don't have here. And it's a learning experience to learn from other more developed institutions."   –HBCU PI

Bar chart showing motivations for partnering by institution type (HBCU, PWI, PWI2):

Motivation	HBCU	PWI	PWI2
My idea	~12	~12	~19
Faculty at one of the partnered universities	~24	~24	~19
Joint idea between me and other co-PI	~62	~50	~39
University administration	~2	~12	~19

Objective 2 - Comparisons:
University Support for Research
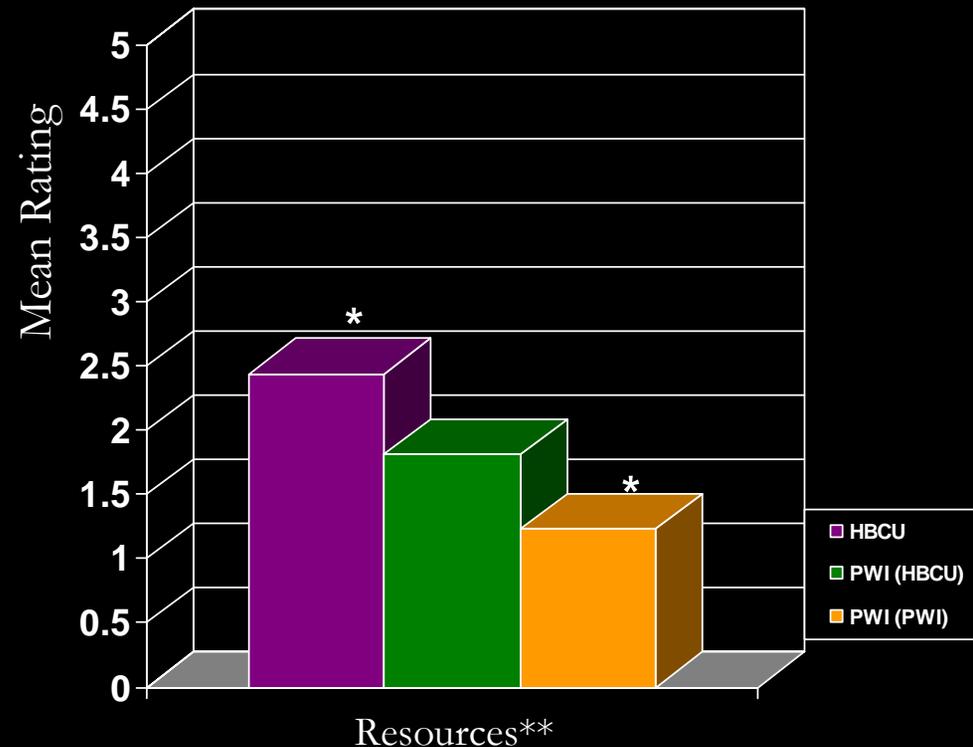
"Workload, lack of support staff at my institution.

They do not have such a problem at (the PWI)." –HBCU PI

To what extent did your institution make the following arrangements for you to work on this project?

a) Reduction in my course load

b) Increased technology to support my university's contribution to the project

c) Increased administrative assistance

d) Funding for partnership project related travel

e) Release time

Scale = ***RESOURCES***

(explained 73.36% of variance)

Mean Rating — Resources**

Legend:
- HBCU
- PWI (HBCU)
- PWI (PWI)

**(p<.05)
*(p<.01)

Objective 2 - Comparisons:
Partnerships' link to University Goals

NSF Science &
Technology Center

NSF
STC

Environmentally Responsible
Solvents and Processes

"(at this HBCU), we are limited in our ability to offer PhDs programs. If we are going to make a difference, then we have got to get our master's students in the sciences and technology into PhD programs and to do that, I've got to partner." –HBCU Research PI

Improvement in the rate and success of underrepresented groups*
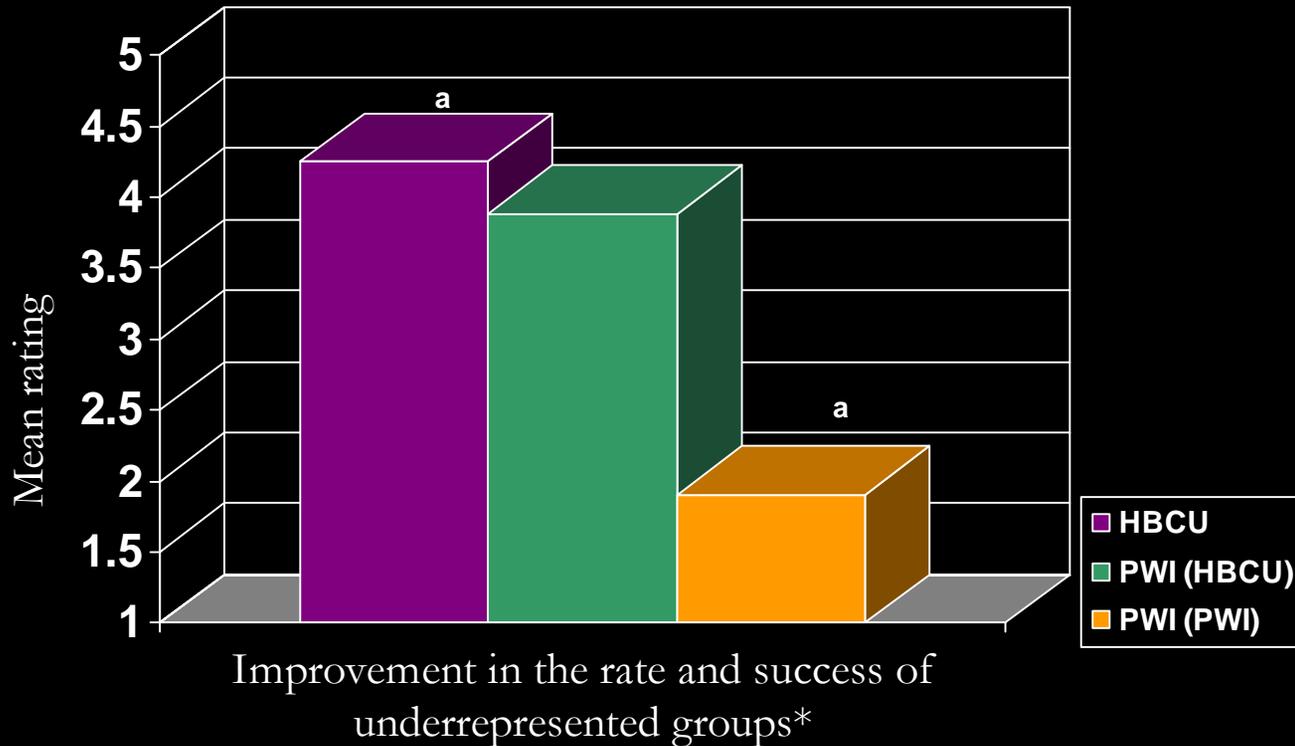
* p<.10
ᵃ significant differences lie between the HBCU and PWI (PWI) groups (p< .10)

Objective 2 - Comparisons:
Satisfaction and Success
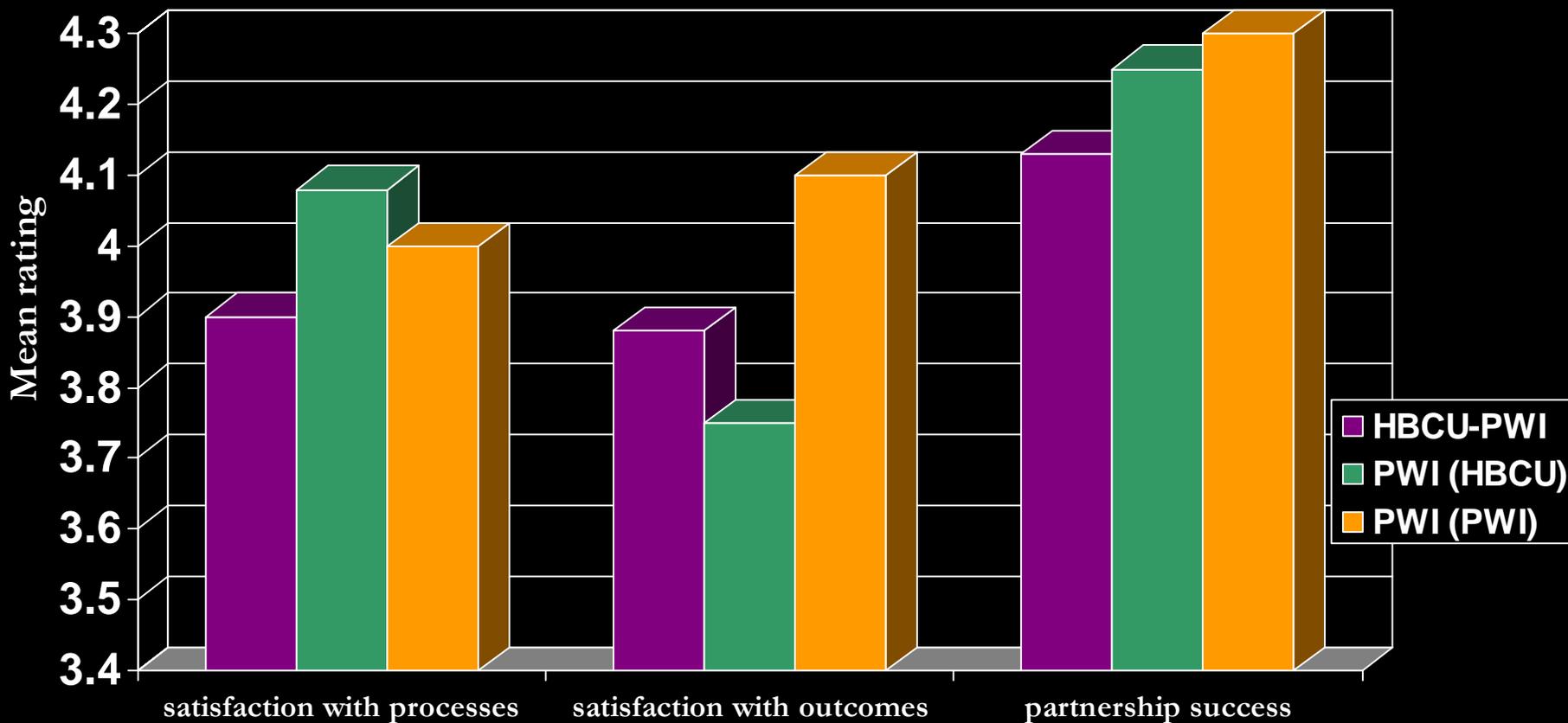
Objective 3 – Outcome Predictors

PREDICTOR VARIABLES	OUTCOME VARIABLES		
	Satisfaction with Processes (B)	Willingness to Participate Again (B)	Partnership Success (B)
Knew partner before partnership	0.48***		
Perceptions of Partnership Success	0.24*	0.38**	
Altered meeting places among partner universities			0.23*
Number of partners			0.49****
Partner Equality	0.39***		
Partner Performance		0.41**	0.27**
Satisfaction with Processes	-------		0.52***
US Citizenship	-0.27**		

*p<.10
** p<.05
***p< .01
****p<.001

Conclusions

What data suggest about HBCU-PWI partnerships:

- They seem to be working, especially with respect to helping underrepresented groups
  - » Certainly no evidence the partnerships strategy is broken
- Funding allocation appears to be approaching parity
  - » On average, HBCU PIs receive more university support for partnering. Maybe partnerships are a vehicle for needed resource augmentation
- More partnerships were generated by joint rather than sole ideas,
  - » Suggests a high degree of networking between these institutions and initiative taken by research faculty
  - » More partnerships were generated by faculty ideas versus administrative directives, suggesting a "bottom-up" rather than "top-down" process.
- Overall, PIs report being satisfied with partnerships and consider their partnerships successful
- Outcome predictors
  - » Knowing partner
  - » Where meetings are held
  - » Partner performance*
  - » Perceptions of partnership success*