

# NETWORK OF MATHEMATICIANS OF COLOR

organized by  
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## Workshop Summary

This focus of this workshop was to bring together a small group of black mathematicians to generate ideas for to better integrate the community of black mathematicians and make the community more visible to the entire mathematics community. During the workshop, there were four areas of focus that were chosen for participants to pursue/develop. These areas were creating unifying events/entities, building and fostering connections with K12 education, creating a bridge program for black men, and developing the Mathematicians of the African Diaspora website.

### Unification

The group intends to put together a proposal for an INCLUDES Alliance grant. One component of this alliance will be to host a unification conference. This would be a 2-4 day event in which all of the organizations, conferences, and programs that serve black mathematicians would come together to present their work, advertise, mentor, and make connections to strengthen the mathematical community.

As a part of unifying and progressing the community, we would like to create groups/committees that would serve to nominate black mathematicians for awards and lead campaign activities for elections to national organizations and among other prominent leadership positions.

### Connections with K12 Education

This group intends to identify what organizations/programs are currently doing in the form of outreach at conferences focused toward K-12 students (grades 5th, 7th, 9th). The main idea that the group had was to develop the “Pitch on the Go” model. The “Pitch on the Go” model is a service opportunity for conference participants to volunteer at local schools/YMCAs/Community Centers on math activities during the conference.

- (1) The “Pitch on the Go” includes key talking points, interactive activity (optional), leave behinds (flyers, pamphlets, postcard about NAM website etc...). Key talking points emphasize that math is for all-everyone can develop the skills to do math, studying math has tangible benefits (e.g. economic opportunity, college admission, standardized tests), math is important for the security & health of our country.
- (2) Potentially collaborate with Benjamin Banneker, NCTM. Possibly pilot idea in March when NAM has meeting with Benjamin Banneker (need to identify coordinating partners at NAM & BB).
- (3) Create a skeleton for the model so that we can do the “Pitch on the Go” year round at various conferences.

## Bridge for Black Men

This group explored the possibilities, challenges, and feasibility of creating an “EDGE” program for black men who are matriculating into graduate school for Mathematics, Statistics or Operations Research. It is believed that no major changes needed to be made from the original (and existing) EDGE program. The group came up with an action plan to get started. This plan included going after a NSF funds for a proposal that was due soon after the workshop. This did not pan out and it has been decided to focus on creating a pilot program.

## MAD Pages

The National Association of Mathematicians (NAM) is currently working on two disparate databases: (1) the NAM Membership, and (2) Scott Williams’ MAD Pages.

### *NAM Membership Database*

For the first, NAM partnered with PortlineWeb Site Builders (<https://www.portline.net>) back in 2016 to create a web interface for which the Board of Directors could upload, download, and otherwise modify spreadsheets for the NAM Membership. Now, NAM has a database consisting of some 1200 entries, where some 400 are paid members of the organization. Moreover, individual members of NAM can modify their own information through a common web interface located at <https://www.nam-math.org>.

### *MAD Pages Database*

For the second, NAM partnered with Varsity Software (<http://www.varsitysoftware.com>) nearly 10 years ago to update Scott Williams’ pages “Mathematicians of the African Diaspora” (<http://www.math.buffalo.edu/mad/>). Williams created the pages in 1997 to showcase more than 500 individuals from the African Diaspora who are connected to the mathematical sciences. Williams retired in 2008, and has not updated his pages since. NAM decided to take on the task of updating the pages by migrating the data from the original MAD Pages to a database.

As of June 8, 2018, NAM and its members updated old information and added information for individuals missing over the past 10 years, so that the database now has more than 600 individuals. NAM and Varsity Software are still working on a Front End, but we expect to unveil a Beta Version of the project at the site <http://www.mathad.com/home.aspx> by February 2019.