



Howard University's Dr. Morris Thomas Hosts International Delegation for Digital Learning Excellence Engagement

State Department selects Howard University to demonstrate innovative learning spaces and practices

WASHINGTON, Oct. 23, 2024 – The U.S. Department of State selected **Howard University's** Dr. Morris Thomas, assistant provost for digital and online learning, director of the center for excellence in teaching, learning, & assessment (CETLA), and associate professor of educational leadership & policy studies in the School of Education to host a delegation of university educators and administrators from Jordan as part of the International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP). The visitors came from Hashemite University, Mu'Tah University, University of Jordan, and Yarmouk University. The visit demonstrated Howard's leadership in digital learning innovation and the unique role of Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) in U.S. higher education.



Dr. Thomas, recognizing the importance of hands-on experience in understanding digital learning infrastructure, created an interactive showcase of Howard's cutting-edge facilities. The delegation engaged in enriching discussions with CETLA fellows Prof. Mack, Dr. Cross, and Dr. Quinlan, who shared their expertise and insights into digital learning excellence. The visiting educators also met with key leadership from the Office of Digital and Online Learning, including Directors Bogard, Long, and Nelson, along with CETLA Associate Director Philpot, who each provided valuable perspectives on their respective areas of expertise.



The delegation participated in comprehensive demonstrations of the Digital Learning HUB, recording and podcast studios, and HY-Flex classroom technologies. This immersive experience showcased Howard's innovative approaches to digital education and demonstrated the university's commitment to technological advancement in higher education.

"This interactive demonstration of Howard University's digital learning capabilities was truly the highlight of our U.S. visit," said one of the Jordanian delegates. "The hands-on experience in the various learning spaces, particularly the HY-Flex classroom and recording studios, provided us with practical insights that we can implement in our own institutions. Dr. Thomas and his team's expertise and willingness to share their knowledge have been invaluable."



The visit, arranged by the American Council for International Education, focused on exploring potential international partnerships and examining best practices for expanding international student exchange programs. The delegation's experience at Howard University exemplified the institution's commitment to excellence in digital learning and international collaboration.

"Howard University continues to lead in innovative educational approaches," said Dr. Thomas. "Our ability to showcase our digital learning infrastructure to international colleagues demonstrates our commitment to advancing global educational excellence and fostering meaningful international partnerships."

About Howard University Founded in 1867, Howard University is a private, research university that is comprised of 14 schools and colleges. Students pursue more than 140 programs of study leading to undergraduate, graduate, and professional degrees. The University operates with a commitment to Excellence in Truth and Service and has produced one Schwarzman Scholar, four Marshall Scholars, four Rhodes Scholars, 12 Truman Scholars, 25 Pickering Fellows, and more than 165 Fulbright recipients. Howard also produces more on-campus African American Ph.D. recipients than any other university in the United States. For more information on Howard University, visit www.howard.edu.