

DR. VALLEN L. EMERY, JR.



Dr. Vallen L. Emery, Jr. currently serves as program manager for the U.S. Army Research Laboratory (ARL) Special Projects and Historically Black Colleges and Universities and Minority/Institutions (HBCU/MI) program. His efforts have contributed to the development of ARL's strategic planning and outreach strategies regarding the shortfall of minority engineers and scientists entering the Federal workforce. Dr. Emery has configured ARL's outreach program into four areas (i.e. funded research, engineer and scientist training, infrastructure support, and outreach); all of which support and compliment ARL's research and development (R&D) vision and strategic plan. In addition, Dr. Emery provides additional support to the ARL Director and senior management; planning and integrating research and exploratory technology base programs for the laboratory.

Dr. Emery also manages the ARL Science and Technology Academic Recognition System (STARS) and Educational Partnership Agreement (EPA) programs. The STARS program strives to maintain ARL's world-class reputation as a provider of equal research opportunities for all Americans, by cultivating a diverse staff rich in knowledge, experience, creativity, and dedication to the growth of technology and support to America's war fighters. Dr. Emery has established and implemented five EPAs for ARL, while serving as the corporate EPA manager. EPAs provide a mechanism for partnerships and collaborations with academic institutions in science, mathematics, and engineering technology programs. ARL science and technology personnel are afforded the opportunity to serve as adjunct faculty at these partner universities and involve the students and faculty in ARL research projects. University researchers are also afforded the opportunity to use ARL facilities to conduct research of interest to ARL. In addition, Dr. Emery has helped build coalitions and established communications between the Presidents of ARL's academic partners by agreeing to participate in annual meetings aimed at addressing a broad range of issues (i.e. creating a defined process for faculty and student participation in summer programs at Army laboratories and increasing the number of students that enter science, mathematics, and engineering (SME) graduate programs). Dr. Emery was asked to Chair the American Society of Engineering Education (ASEE) Historically Black Engineering Colleges Committee (HBECC) because of his understanding of minority institutions. This committee is made up of the engineering deans at nine HBCUs. Dr. Emery also developed a mentoring program for ARL. Dr. Emery established this program in order to provide guidance and counseling to newly hired individuals operating in the complex, government laboratory environment for the first time. This mentoring program allows for a smoother, more rapid transition of new hires and interns; improving productivity, efficiency, and cooperation in the workplace.

Prior to joining ARL, Dr. Emery served as a Research Biologist for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Waterways Experiment Station (WES), located in Vicksburg, Mississippi. While at WES, Dr. Emery helped establish a R&D program that focused on aquatic bioassay test development, aquatic toxicity testing of military unique compounds and ecological risk assessment. Several chronic bioassays were developed by the R&D team and are nationally used to assist local governments in determining the impact of low level contaminant exposures on ecosystems. Dr. Emery also served as the Director of Special Projects and Marketing at Johns Hopkins in Baltimore, Maryland, before serving in his position at WES. Dr. Emery was the first minority Director of Marketing for a major health maintenance organization (HMO), and was the first HMO marketing director, in the Baltimore area, to promote a female to a supervisory position and led a team that placed minorities and women in key leadership roles. In addition, Dr. Emery established professional training programs for the marketing and customer service staffs at Johns Hopkins, and instituted customer survey instruments that assessed the quality of all HMO services. In addition, Dr. Emery assisted in the creation of the Johns Hopkins HMO advertising campaign that won several awards and was later emulated by other area HMOs. All of the programs instituted by Dr. Emery at Hopkins put the Hopkins HMO in the forefront of the HMO movement in Baltimore.

As a member of the American Society of Limnology and Oceanography (ASLO), Dr. Emery served as a mentor for its Minority Program. The program is sponsored by the National Foundation and administered by Hampton University. Minority students from colleges and universities across the United States were brought to the national ASLO meeting and assigned mentors that matched their professional interests. Dr. Emery mentored and taught students how to get the most out of conference attendance by conducting workshops on resume writing, interviewing, and presentation techniques. Dr. Emery has maintained contact with undergraduate and graduate students he mentored through the program as well as established professional relationships with the faculty of the attending institutions. Dr. Emery also serves as a mentor in the University of Maryland Baltimore County's Meyerhoff Scholars Program and the Advocates. The Advocates is a group of African-American men who support minority charities across the United States. Dr. Emery is also an active member of the Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity Inc.

Dr. Emery holds a Bachelor's degree in Chemistry from Morgan State University, a Master's degree in Marine Estuarine and Environmental Science from the University of Maryland Eastern Shore, and a Doctorate degree in Marine, Estuarine and Environmental Science from the University of Maryland College Park.