

# ***The HBCU-CBO Gulf Coast Equity Consortium***

The HBCU-CBO Gulf Coast Equity Consortium is designed by Dr. Robert Bullard, Distinguished Professor of Urban Planning and Environmental Policy at Texas Southern University, and Dr. Beverly Wright, Executive Director and Founder of the Deep South Center for Environmental Justice. The goal of the Consortium is to improve the health and lives of children and families in the Gulf Coast Region. Members of the Consortium are dedicated leaders of community-based organizations and accomplished professors at Historically Black Colleges and Universities whose work with the Consortium is guided by three foundational principles.

<b>Foundational Principles</b>	<i>People must speak for themselves.</i>	Listen to community concerns and support community members in expanding their knowledge and building their capacity to advocate for themselves.
	<i>“Communiversality”</i>	Employ this DSCEJ model for establishing an equitable relationship between community and university in the conduct of research and community action.
	<i>Community-Based Participatory Research</i>	Respect community knowledge. Ensure that the action of the Consortium is community-driven. Support community members to substantively participate in the research through skills training and science literacy education.

The Consortium envisions that the voices within Gulf Coast Region communities are heard; that community members are educated on the issues most important to them; that they are trained in the use of effective strategies and will put these strategies into action; and that their strategic action results in the transformation of their communities so that children and families enjoy improved health outcomes and a better quality of life. Integral to this vision is the replication of ideas, knowledge, methods, and strategies throughout communities in the region, causing demonstrable regional improvements in the lives of children and families.

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