The Timbuktu Academy was established in 1990 to mentor undergraduate physics majors.

It is named after the former University of Timbuktu (14th-16th centuries), a bastion of scholarship in the second millennium, in the city of Timbuktu, on the banks of the majestic Niger River, in Mali, West Africa. SUBR is on the banks of the mighty Mississippi!

Pursuant to funding by the Department of the Navy, Office of Naval Research (ONR), 1993-2010, the Academy moved from a demonstration stage to national-model status; included pre-college programs; and recruited majors in other SME fields, with emphasis on engineering and chemistry.

The Academy is also funded by the Louisiana Space Consortium (LaSPACE), the ExxonMobil Foundation, and the Siemens Foundation. We acknowledge past funding, from 1990 to 2007, from the National Science Foundation (NSF), Louisiana Board of Regents, Hewlett Packard Foundation, and NASA.

**SUMMARY OF SOME RESULTS OF THE ACADEMY**

The Timbuktu Academy played a pivotal role in the production of competitively trained BS degree holders. The web site of the Academy provides a detailed listing of individual alumni, their majors, and their graduate schools or high technology employment. Since its inception, the Timbuktu Academy has guided to graduation some 297 minority undergraduate science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) majors. Through our guidance, more than three hundred fifty (350) minority undergraduate scholars have earned a Bachelor of Science degree from SUBR. 76% of 96 physics graduates, 70% of 54 chemistry graduates, 31% of 81 engineering graduates have earned graduate degrees or are successfully enrolled in graduate school, with emphasis on the pursuit of the Ph.D. Two of the graduates, Dr. Anthony Pullen (SUBR Spring 2004 Student Grand Marshal) and Dr. Cacey Stevens Bester (SUBR Spring 2008 Student Grand Marshal), received NSF Graduate Research Fellowships. The same full-time dedication to scholarly pursuit explains the reasons 14 Timbuktu Academy and LS-LAMP scholars were Student Grand Marshals (top of the graduation class) of SUBR between 1992 and 2017.

Before the Academy, the graduate school attendance rate of Engineering majors was estimated at 10%. The Engineering scholars of the Academy have attended and succeeded in graduate school at a rate 4.5 times higher than 10%.

**EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH (K-16 AND BEYOND)**

**ESCC ACADEMY ACHIEVEMENTS**

- High School graduates and college students
- Summer Bridge Institute
- Undergraduate Research Program
- ESP (Educational Services Program)
- Precollege scholars
- High school graduates and college students
- Educational Outreach (K-16 and Beyond)

**Contact Information**

Director: Diola Bagayoko, Ph.D., SU Distinguished Professor of Physics and Dean, D. M. R. Spikes Honors College
E-mail: Bagayoko@aol.com and Diola_Bagayoko@subr.edu
Voice: (225) 771-2730 Fax: (225) 771-4341
Co-Director: The Late Ella L. Kelley, Ph.D., Associate Vice Chancellor, Academic Affairs & Dean, Honors College

**For Applications:**
Voice: (225) 771-2730
L_J_franklin2002@aol.com
or bjinesceely@yahoo.com
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The Academy Director received the 2009 Thurgood Marshall College Fund’s Distinguished Faculty Award

"Luck is what happens when preparation meets or makes, recognizes, and acts on opportunity"