

Olivia M. Blackmon, PhD
Director, STEM Accelerator and Partnership for Nuclear Energy (PNE)
Oak Ridge Associated Universities (ORAU)

Olivia M. Blackmon has more than 20 years of professional experience in critical infrastructure, regional innovation, partnership development and business operations. She earned her doctoral and master's degrees in sociology with a concentration in education and statistics from George Mason University and was an Education Writers Association fellow for education policy at Harvard University.

Blackmon is currently the director for Oak Ridge Associated Universities (ORAU) STEM Accelerator and Partnership for Nuclear Energy (PNE), a national initiative to strengthen America's global leadership in STEM by unifying and mobilizing a comprehensive body of leaders from various sectors to address the critical challenges in the nuclear energy education, training, and workforce development issues across the United States. In addition, her role Dr. Blackmon is the AAAS-White House Anchor Partner to oversee Diversity, Education, Inclusion, and Access (DEIA) for national Higher Education. She is also a Fulbright Specialist, specializing in Energy infrastructure in 11 African countries.

Prior to joining ORAU, Blackmon directed a \$30 million United States Agency of International Development (USAID) program for DAI, Inc., to enable the digital transformation of the Western Balkans, Black Sea Region, and South Caucasus by working with the national governments, critical infrastructure operators, private sector partners, academia, and oversight bodies to address cybersecurity vulnerabilities across critical infrastructure sectors. Her work included developing partnerships to address the necessary legal, workforce, and investment gaps needed to support critical infrastructure resilience and document lessons learned.

Blackmon led the mobilization of over 1,000 partnerships to support MITRE's COVID-19 Coalition, a major initiative supported by more than 20 U.S. Federal Agencies and the White House. This private sector led response gathered healthcare organizations, technology firms, nonprofits, and academia impacting over 19 programs to include vaccine distribution, contact tracing, digital health innovation, access to health in rural areas, and other programs.

Over the last decade Blackmon has successfully built and managed programs totaling more than \$130 million with multiple federal agencies including the Department of Defense, Department of State, National Science Foundation, USAID, Department of Health Services and National Institute of Standards and Technology.