

SUPERCHARGED

POWERING CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT: ASSESSMENT, ACCREDITATION, AND BEYOND

DATA & ASSESSMENT DAY 2026

SEPTEMBER 29, 2026 | INTERDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH BUILDING

SETTING THE CHARGE

On September 29, 2026, Howard University's Institutional Research and Assessment (IRA) team brought the Howard community together for the annual Data & Assessment Day event, this year centered on the theme SUPERCHARGED: Powering Continuous Improvement: Assessment, Accreditation, and Beyond.

The event aimed to make assessment practical, accessible, and connected to the work happening across the University. Through hands-on sessions, conversations, and data exploration, attendees had an opportunity to strengthen their understanding of assessment and how it supports Howard's continued growth.



POWERING THE WORK

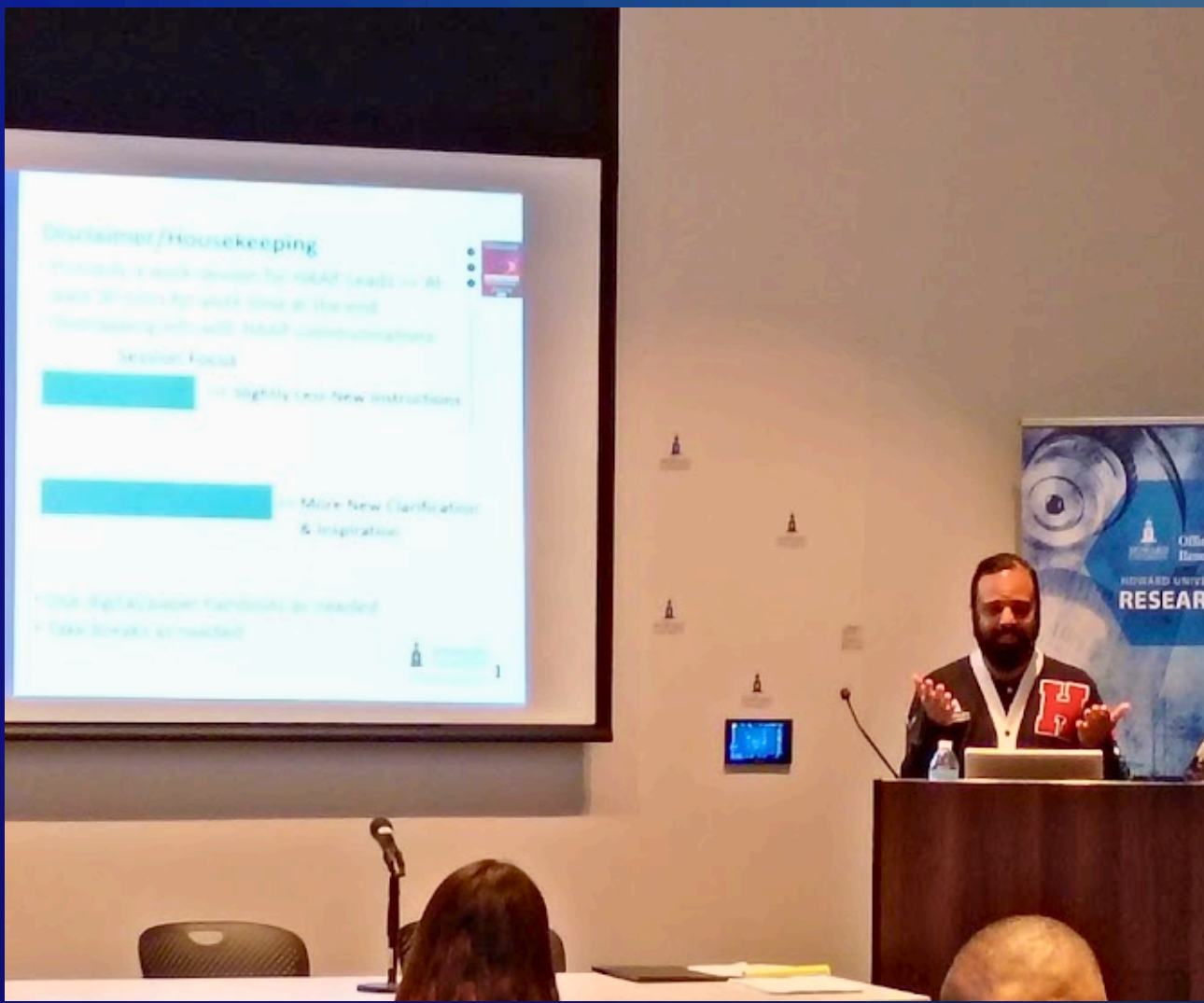
Associate Provost Dr. Daphne Bernard opened the day by welcoming attendees and setting the stage for the work ahead. She highlighted the role assessment plays across the University and encouraged the Howard community to think intentionally about how assessment supports where we are now and where we are going.

As Howard looks ahead to its upcoming accreditation work, Dr. Bernard emphasized the importance of preparation, engagement, and understanding the resources available through IRA. She encouraged attendees to begin preparing now as the University moves toward its next accreditation cycle.



CHARGING TOWARDS THE FUTURE

Provost Anthony K. Wutoh reinforced the importance of assessment in supporting Howard University's future. His remarks encouraged the community to continue working with assessment as a tool for understanding where we are, identifying where we need to go, and helping move the University's priorities forward. He highlighted how assessment can lead to more strategic decision-making and foster an environment of continuous improvement. By embracing assessment, the University can better align its resources with its mission and goals, ensuring long-term success and sustainability.



PLUGGING INTO HAAP

Workshopping Your Howard Annual Assessment Plan

Dr. Anil Lalwani kicked off the sessions by taking attendees step-by-step through the Howard Annual Assessment Process (HAAP). Participants logged into their plans, explored what is needed for a complete assessment plan, and had an opportunity to ask questions specific to their own work.

The session went beyond simply completing a requirement. Attendees walked away with a better understanding of how to strengthen their plans, identify appropriate outcomes and measures, and develop more meaningful and robust assessment practices.

ACCREDITATION SUCCESS STORIES PANEL

Learning From Experience

Dr. Pavithra Suresh moderated a conversation with Dr. Alaina Davis of the Cathy Hughes School of Communications and Dr. Michelle Searles of the School of Education about their experiences with accreditation.

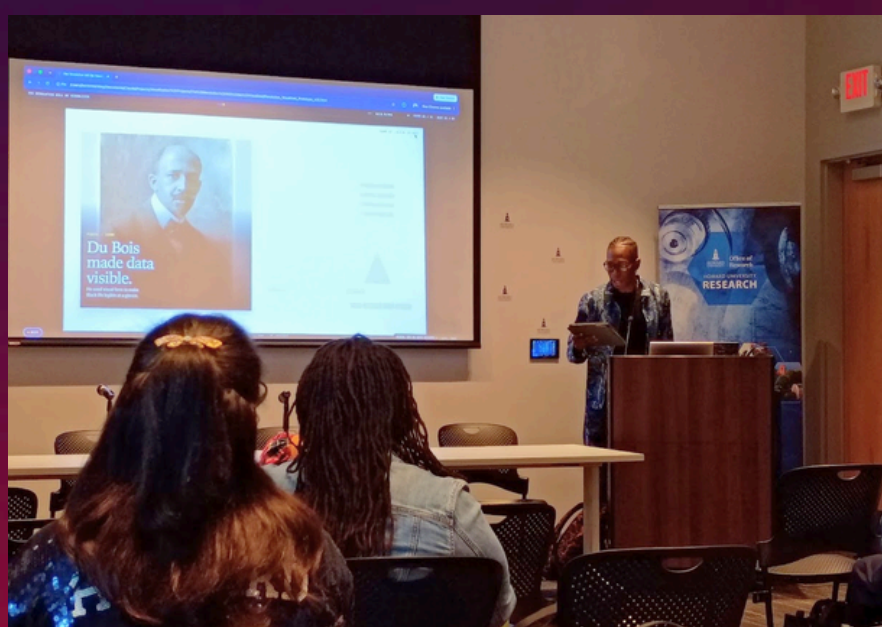
The panel offered attendees a firsthand look at accreditation preparation, what worked, what didn't, lessons learned along the way, and what they would approach differently. Their experiences provided practical insight into what schools, colleges, and units can begin doing now to prepare for future accreditation efforts.



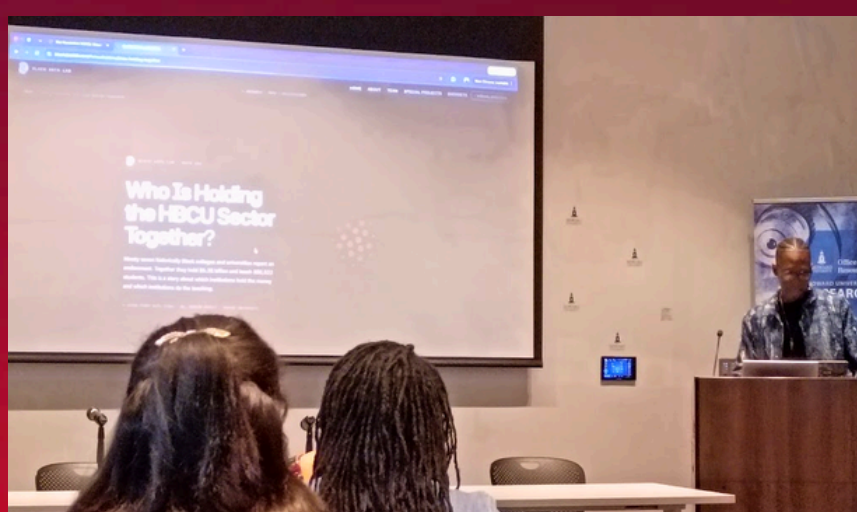
THE REVOLUTION WILL BE VISUALIZED.

Keynote Presentation

One of the highlights of the day came from Dr. Kenton Rambsy, whose keynote, "The Revolution Will Be Visualized," brought together data, literature, culture, social justice, and visual storytelling.



Through music, cultural references, familiar figures, data visualizations, and engaging examples, Dr. Rambsy demonstrated how the way we present and interpret information can shape how we understand the world around us. His presentation connected his work as a scholar of literature and data storyteller to the larger conversations surrounding assessment, accreditation, and evidence.



The session was animated, thought-provoking, and a reminder that data does not have to be boring to be meaningful. He left attendees captivated and powered by his presentation.

"If you missed this one... you missed a good one."

DATA DASHBOARD SCAVENGER HUNT

Search. Filter. Discover. Win.

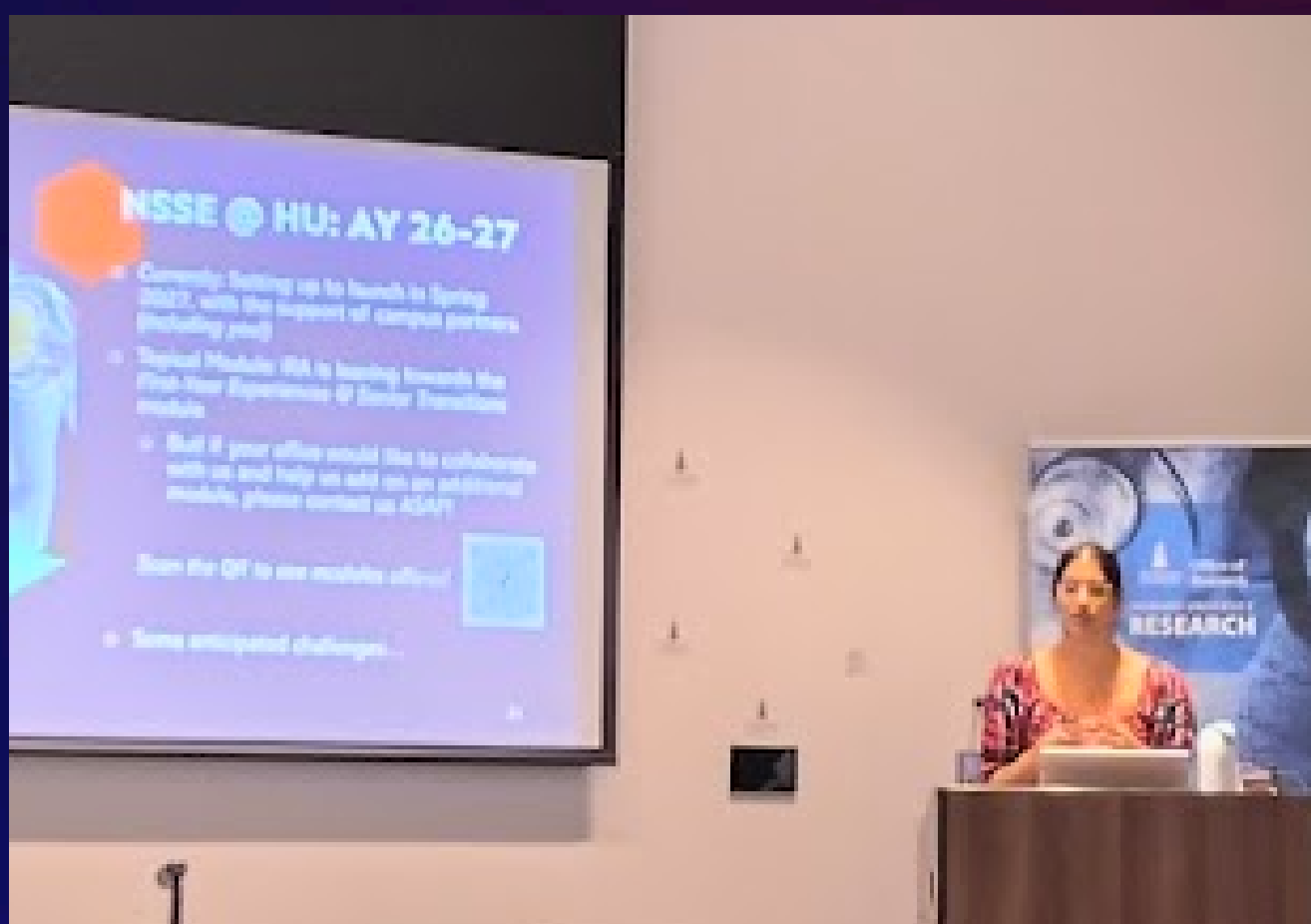
The Institutional Research team turned data exploration into a little friendly competition with the Data Dashboard Scavenger Hunt.

Attendees explored the IRA website and Howard's publicly available institutional data, using dashboards, filters, and other resources to find answers to a series of questions with prizes adding to the fun.

Beyond the competition, the activity provided a hands-on look at the amount of information available through IRA and showed participants how to find, filter, and use institutional data for themselves.



ANTICIPATING NSSE Lessons from Last Cycle



Dr. Pavithra Suresh took attendees inside the numbers as she reflected on lessons learned from Howard's previous survey cycle and looked ahead to the National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE).

The conversation explored participation, response patterns, efforts to close the loop using survey feedback, and the importance of encouraging students and faculty to engage with institutional surveys. The discussion also touched on FSSE and GSES and helped connect survey participation to the larger picture: the information collected helps Howard better understand the experiences of its community and make informed decisions moving forward. The message here was simple: participation matters.

HOW TO STAY EMPOWERED

Stay on the lookout for...

- the Alumni Survey opening during Homecoming
- the GSES opening for all graduating students
- Course Evaluations later this semester
- NSSE/FSSE surveys in Spring 2027
- additional HAAP resources and support
- upcoming IRA workshops and events

...and more opportunities to explore Howard's institutional data.

Connect with us at ira.howard.edu

Stay plugged in. Stay SUPERCHARGED.

Join us for the next **IDEAS** meeting on
October 9 from 11:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.

Scan the QR Code to register

