NJIT TAB’s Executive Director was a featured speaker at the National Conference on Equitable Development. Held at Bethune-Cookman University, a Historically Black College and University (HBCU) located in Daytona Beach, Florida from June 20-21, 2018, the conference provided a forum for discussion of approaches to addressing health, economic, housing, and environmental disparities in our communities. This conference aimed at providing under-resourced and/or low-income communities with strategies for shaping development that addresses their needs and respects their values. The conference served to build capacity for smart growth, environmental justice, and equitable development that community-based organizations, local and regional decision makers, developers, and others can use to build healthy, sustainable, and economically vibrant communities.

Conference attendees included stakeholders in governmental, non-governmental, public, private, and education sectors that are involved in community planning, development, and health.

The NJIT TAB Executive Director’s presentation was titled “Brownfields Redevelopment: A Key Ingredient to Creating Sustainable, Healthy, and Vibrant Communities”. The presentation included a discussion on the history of brownfields; the social, economic, and environmental disadvantages of having a brownfield site; brownfields redevelopment options; ways in which the cleanup and redevelopment of brownfield sites can contribute to sustainable communities; and an overview of the NJIT TAB Program. Attendees were encouraged to tap into the free assistance that NJIT provides to communities faced with the challenges of assessing, cleaning up, and redeveloping their brownfield sites.