



Michaela Amoo



The field of quantum computing needs all hands on deck to work towards building powerful systems. To provide better access to quantum computing resources for traditionally underrepresented students, IBM founded the Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) Quantum Center in 2020 to create education, research, and career opportunities at more than two dozen HBCUs across the United States. Michaela Amoo, a professor at Howard University and one of the directors of the Quantum Center, provided both guidance for the program and her students. Amoo specialized in designing electronic hardware, specifically control and readout hardware between quantum and classical devices. Amoo also created educational tools to teach students about quantum engineering and **machine learning**—computer systems that learn and adapt based on the data it is given—by using classic games like chess, tic-tac-toe, or mancala. Amoo passed away in 2023, but her contributions to the HBCU Quantum Center and the quantum field have had a lasting impact.