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Harris's professional work spans research and teaching in chemistry and related biological sciences. At Howard University, he engages students in chemical research and contributes to advancing knowledge in biochemical processes. His prior teaching experience includes courses in general biology, genetics, molecular genetics, recombinant DNA methodology, and forensic science at institutions such as the Catholic University of America and the Foundation for Advanced Education in the Sciences at NIH.

In addition to his academic roles, Harris has participated in national scientific conferences and forums, including organizing think tank discussions on health inequities and contributing to portfolio reviews of health disparities research. Throughout his career, he has integrated research, education and service to broaden understanding of chemistry's role in addressing complex scientific and societal challenges.