Ivory A. Toldson, Ph.D.
President and CEO

Dr. Ivory A. Toldson is the president and CEO of the QEM Network, professor of counseling psychology at Howard University, editor-in-chief of *The Journal of Negro Education* and executive editor of *The Journal for Policy Analysis and Research*, published by the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation, Inc. Previously, Dr. Toldson was appointed by President Barack Obama to devise national strategies to sustain and expand federal support to HBCUs, as the executive director of the White House Initiative on Historically Black Colleges and Universities. Since 2016, as QEM principal investigator, Dr. Toldson has been awarded more than $4.5 million from federal agencies including NSF and NASA, to support capacity building efforts for STEM programs at Minority Serving Institutions.

With more than 80 publications, Dr. Toldson was dubbed a leader "who could conceivably navigate the path to the White House" by the *Washington Post*; one of "30 leaders in the fight for Black men;" by *Newsweek Magazine*; and the "Problem Solver" by *Diverse: Issues In Higher Education*. A sought-after speaker, Dr. Toldson has been featured on *MSNBC TV*, *C-SPAN2 TV*, *NPR News*, and numerous national and local radio stations. In print, his research has been featured in *The Washington Post, CNN.com, The New York Times, The National Journal, Essence Magazine, BET.com, The Grio, and Ebony Magazine*. Dr. Toldson was named in *The Root 100*, an annual ranking of the most influential African-American leaders. He also served as contributing education editor for *The Root*, where he debunked some of the most pervasive myths about African-Americans and gained a national reputation for challenging “BS,” or *Bad Stats*.

Dr. Toldson, according to former U.S. Secretary Arne Duncan, is "a prolific young scholar and myth buster." According to *NPR*, “Toldson says the refusal to look at the data closely — to prefer a story over the facts — creates more problems than it solves.” According to the *Washington Post*, Dr. Toldson help others to “Look deeper into the dispiriting statistics” to “Find a rarely acknowledged beauty: an indomitable spirit and irrepressible desire to beat the odds.” He is married to Marshella Toldson, and together, they are raising their daughter, Makena and their son, Ivory Kaleb.
OUR VISION: Educators are innovators: The Quality Education for Minorities (QEM) Network was established in July 1990, as a non-profit organization in Washington, DC, dedicated to improving education from underrepresented students throughout the nation. It is the successor organization to the MIT-based QEM Project, and the precursor to Project QEM2 (Quality Education for the Majority-Minority). With initial support from Carnegie and MIT, QEM began its operation to help realize the vision and goals set forth in the QEM Project's January 1990 report: Education That Works: An Action Plan for the Education of Minorities.

1. The Quality Education for Minorities (QEM) Network was established in July 1990, as a non-profit organization in Washington, DC, dedicated to improving education from underrepresented students throughout the nation.


3. QEM continues to be the premier organization for improving the quality of education for minorities, by providing technical assistance to MSIs, funding internship opportunities for underrepresented students, and advocating for college and career readiness in STEM.

4. QEM Network Programs:
   a). Annie E. Casey Foundation Project: To facilitate a virtual community of Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) faculty, who are committed to education and research to advancing socially conscious juvenile justice reform.

   b). Faculty Early Career Development (CAREER) Program: With support from the National Science Foundation (NSF)'s Faculty Early Career Development (CAREER) Program, Quality Education for Minorities (QEM) Network has provided technical assistance to Junior Faculty at Minority Institutions and Minority Junior Faculty at non-minority institutions to increase their participation and competitiveness in the CAREER Program.

   c). Computer and Information Science and Engineering (CISE) Forum: With support from the National Science Foundation (NSF), the Quality Education for Minorities (QEM) Network will conduct a one-and-a-half-day outreach forum, and related follow-up activities, focused on broadening participation in the National Science Foundation (NSF) Computer and Information Science and Engineering (CISE) Directorate’s Core research programs.

   d). Cultural engagement and recruitment of American Indian males into computer science through computational linguistics: The Quality Education for Minorities (QEM) Network has received two years of support from the National Science Foundation (NSF) to investigate the effects of collaborative
computational linguistics hands-on research projects on the recruitment into, and retention of, American Indian males in Computer Science or Information Technology (CS/IT).

e). Historically Black Colleges and Universities Undergraduate Program (HBCU-UP): (QEM) Network, with support from the National Science Foundation (NSF) provided technical assistance to current and potential grantees in the Foundation’s Historically Black Colleges and Universities Undergraduate Program (HBCU-UP), to ensure that graduates of these institutions are prepared to successfully pursue advanced STEM degrees or to enter the Nation’s science and engineering workforce upon graduation.

f). Robert Noyce Teacher Scholarship (NOYCE) Program: QEM conducted ten proposal development and follow-up workshops to prepare faculty at minority-serving institutions to submit competitive proposals to the National Science Foundation (NSF)’s Robert Noyce Teacher Scholarship (NOYCE) Program. The NOYCE program, which is in the NSF Division of Undergraduate Education, seeks to encourage talented science, technology, engineering, and mathematics majors and professionals to become K-12 mathematics and science teachers.

g). QEM/NSF INCLUDES: The INCLUDES award focuses on building STEM research and teaching capacity of Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) and Tribal Colleges and Universities (TCUs). HBCUs and TCUs share the impact of disparities that affect their communities and are constantly seeking STEM research and education solutions to engage students and prepare them to be fully involved in developing innovative and effective remedies that will address these disparities. The QEM Design & Development Launch Pilot (DDLP) Project is a collaboration that will provide an underpinning for broadening the participation of institutions involved in improving the enrollment and retention of minority students in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM).

h). Scholarships in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics Program (S-STEM) S-STEM: This program provides funds for scholarships for low-income students AND also supports the implementation and testing of existing effective evidence-based curricular and co-curricular activities featuring: (1) close involvement of STEM faculty, (2) student mentoring, (3) provisions of academic and student support, (4) adaptation of existing high quality evidence-based practices, (5) recognition of S-STEM Scholars.

i). Tribal Colleges and Universities Program (TCUP): Through its TCUP award, QEM provides STEM technical assistance and professional development to Tribal Colleges and Universities, Alaska Native-serving institutions, and Native Hawaiian-serving institutions.