QEM LEADERSHIP PAVES THE WAY FOR HISTORICALLY BLACK COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES TO INCREASE RESEARCH CAPACITY

(WASHINGTON, DC) As a nonprofit organization dedicated to improving educational opportunities for minorities by providing technical assistance to those institutions of higher learning, the Quality Education for Minorities (QEM) is ramping up its focus on increasing the research capacity of Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs).

“It is critical that, as a nation, we focus on the need to encourage and facilitate the development of scientific minds among our young people who attend minority-serving institutions,” said QEM’s president and CEO Dr. Ivory Toldson. Held just recently during the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation’s 2018 Annual Legislative Conference, Dr. Toldson led a STEM capacity-building symposium on the campus of Howard University.

Billed as the Research Action and Practice (RAP) Symposium, the meetings served to encourage HBCUs to focus on research in their Science Technology Engineering and Math (STEM) disciplines. “As they do so, these institutions will also serve as a banner for other stakeholders and policymakers in the STEM community. They have the capacity to become standard-bearers in the field, and we are here to facilitate that,” he added.

Funded by the National Science Foundation (NSF), the symposium was also designed as a way to connect with the larger STEM community, and make them aware of the capacity and potential of STEM research led by the HBCU community of stakeholders. NSF funded the project that allowed 33 HBCUs to participate in the initiative by paying all travel related expenses.

Ivory A. Toldson, Ph.D., is and president of Quality Education for Minorities (QEM), a DC-based nonprofit organization dedicated to improving education for underrepresented students, across the country. QEM recently received a grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF) to produce a national symposium to increase STEM research and teaching at HBCUs through collaborations with STEM advocates and practitioners. The two-day symposium was held in conjunction with the 2018 Congressional Black Caucus Foundation (CBCF)’s Annual Legislative Conference (ALC).

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Ivory A. Toldson, Ph.D. – Session facilitator and QEM President and CEO

HBCU Cohort that participated in the RAP symposium