QEM’S PRESIDENT AND CEO SERVES AS EDITOR-IN-CHIEF OF GROUNDBREAKING PUBLICATION “DEFINING THE BLACK AGENDA IN A POST-OBAMA ERA”

(WASHINGTON, DC) Ivory A. Toldson, Ph.D., who serves as president and CEO of the Washington education foundation, the QEM Network, is the editor-in-chief of a new book that seeks to clarify and codify proactive steps in moving the Black agenda forward, now that the nation has twice elected its first African-American President. The book, “DEFINING THE BLACK AGENDA IN A POST-OBAMA ERA” was released this week at a special event that featured academicians and politicians, including those who have been standard bearers in the Civil Rights Movement.

“In a politically polarizing climate, where our social media contacts unwittingly and intentionally circulate “fake news,” more than at any point in history, our nation’s survival depends on innovative approaches to informing the public through quality research,” writes Dr. Toldson in his editorial introduction. “While many policy organizations have robust methods for advocating issues to lawmakers, researchers, typically working at institutions of higher education, have been less effective at advancing their scholarship toward social change,” he concluded.

Dr. Toldson contends that the rate of speed on today’s “information super-highways” leaves many academicians unable to impact policy with their work. As an example, he notes that even though Researchers from a variety of disciplines have presented credible research on criminal justice reform, the information is rarely used to inform public policy debates or sway lawmakers to implement changes.

The hope is that “DEFINING THE BLACK AGENDA IN A POST-OBAMA ERA” will serve as a rallying cry for policymakers and educators alike, leading to more thoughtful applications of research in improving the lives of all Americans, and making a measurable difference in the act of social change.

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