QEM SPECIAL TRAINING ALLOWS HISTORICALLY BLACK AND TRIBAL COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES TO GAIN FOOTHOLD IN THE ILLUSIVE RESEARCH TRACK

(WASHINGTON, D.C.) The Quality Education for Minorities Network (QEM) took the first step today in its efforts to raise the research competency levels of Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), and Tribal Colleges and Universities (TCUs). The organization’s three-day event, termed A National Summit to Survey and Stimulate Broadening Participation Research (BPR) at Historically Black and Tribal Colleges and Universities, got underway today in Maryland with a total of 29 educational institutions participating. It is being conducted under the auspices of QEM’s NSF INCLUDES (Inclusion across the Nation of Communities of Learners of Underrepresented Discoverers in Engineering and Science) Program.

Through the QEM NSF INCLUDES Program, the QEM Network seeks building STEM research and teaching capacity of Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) and Tribal Colleges and Universities (TCUs). “The goal here is to change the paradigm we have come to expect in the release of new information through research,” said Ivory A. Toldson, Ph.D., QEM’s President and CEO. “In order to have an impact on the products and ideas gained through research, we must first have an increase the number of minority focused institutions engaging in national studies and producing those results,” he added. QEM has assembled a broad spectrum of experts to conduct the sessions.

Research shows that 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, underpinning for broadening the participation of institutions involved in improving the enrollment and retention of minority students in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM).

The Summit will feature nationally known speakers such as: Odis Johnson, Jr., Director of Graduate Studies in the Department of Education, and Faculty Scholar at the Institute of Public Health, Washington University in St. Louis; Leyte Winfield, Department of Chemistry & Biochemistry Chair, Division of Natural Sciences and Mathematics Spelman College; Dr. Patricia B. Campbell, President, Campbell-Kibler Associates, a firm that has been doing research and evaluation to increase gender and race equity in math, science and technology education for the past 35 years. Leander R. McDonald, President, United Tribes Technical College, and enrolled member of the Spirit Lake Dakota Nation; Caesar R. Jackson, Professor of Physics, North Carolina Central University.

In addition, QEM has acquired the participation of Fay Cobb Payton, Program Director, Division of Computer and Network Systems, Directorate for Computer and Information Science and Engineering, National Science Foundation (NSF); Dr. Kinnis Gosha, Hortenius I. Chenault, Endowed Associate Professor in the Department of Computer Science and Director of the Culturally Relevant Computing Laboratory, Morehouse College; Dirk Butler, Senior Associate, National Community Strategies, Annie E. Casey Foundation Tomeka Hart, Senior Program Officer, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

The Summit will end with the session “Next Steps: Creating an Action Plan to Stimulate BP Research at HBCUs/TCUs Developing an HBCU/TCU BPR in STEM Education Research Community of Practice.” Dr. Ivory Toldson and INCLUDES Summit Consultants will lead this final discussion and devise a final action plan to achieve the Summit’s goals and objectives.

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