QEM’s Historic National Summit Concludes With Aim to Broaden the Community of Practice in STEM Education by its Participants

(BALTIMORE, MD) As a tangible result of the Quality Education for Minorities (QEM) Network and National Science Foundation (NSF) INCLUDES SUMMIT, (Inclusion across the Nation of Communities of Learners of Underrepresented Discoverers in Engineering and Science March gathering, work to develop and convey an action plan to enhance the contribution of minority students in the STEM Education Research Community of Practice, is now underway. The sessions took place in Baltimore, during QEM’s NSF INCLUDES National Summit to Survey and Stimulate Broadening Participation Research at Historically Black and Tribal Colleges/Universities.

“Bringing together faculty and staff from HBCUs and TCUs at the QEM Summit was one more way of implementing the project’s goal of synthesizing current STEM Education Research conducted by HBCUs and TCUs” said Ivory A. Toldson, Ph.D. “Although they constitute a small segment of America’s colleges, HBCUs and TCUs make a disproportionate contribution to the production of African American and Native American STEM degree recipients,” he added.

The Summit aimed to document and catalyze the experiences and leadership of the participants, in order to support the nation’s goal of a diversified STEM workforce. Throughout the Summit, HBCU and TCU participants presented briefings describing their STEM Education Research. An Abstract Book was distributed to provide the basis for the Summit’s goal of synthesizing STEM Education Research at HBCUs and TCUs and to stimulate STEM Education Research and collaborations between and among the institutions.

The Summit also featured a cadre of Nationally-recognized consultants in STEM Education Research who shared their expertise and experiences on topics such as: Summary of Current
Knowledge Base on of STEM Education Research at HBCUs and TCUs; Cultural Competence and Ethical Practice; and Research to Practice, including Telling Our Story to Diverse Audiences. The Summit engaged participants Input and Feedback Sessions, and gathered responses from a broad spectrum of HBCUs/TCUs to inform the Summit’s Action Plan to Stimulate Broadening Participation Research at Historically Black and Tribal Colleges/Universities.

The Summit featured a cadre of leaders from the HBCU and TCU communities, including Dr. Juliette Bell, Ph.D., former President of the University of Maryland Eastern Shore, and Leander McDonald, Ph.D., President, United Tribes Technical College in Bismarck, ND. Current STEM Education Research knowledge and the unique and effective histories and research efforts at HBCUs and TCUs, were highlighted in the presentations. The Summit also provided opportunities for NSF Program Officers and representatives from private foundations, including Annie E. Casey and The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to describe opportunities for support of STEM Education Research efforts.

The work of the Summit will continue, and presentations are available at the QEM Website. Summaries of participants’ responses to the consultants’ presentations are in preparation for distribution.

##