QEM PRESIDENT RECEIVES APPOINTMENT TO PRESTIGIOUS HIGHER EDUCATION PANEL

(WASHINGTON, DC) Ivory A. Toldson, Ph.D. president and CEO of the QEM Network, has been appointed to serve on a prestigious higher education panel backed by The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. The panel, consisting of 30 higher education leaders, business representatives, and foundation experts, will look at the value of earning college degrees and of earning post-high school certificates.

“I am pleased to announce my appointment to The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation sponsored Commission on the Value of Postsecondary Education,” said Dr. Toldson. “My passion on this subject developed years ago when I made the decision to address the issue as an educator, and as a policy influencer. This appointment will allow me to share ideas and insights on the subject of higher education with others who are interested in its direction and impact,” he concluded.

The announcement comes as Congress begins consideration of The Higher Education Act, of 2019, and The White House considers releasing data that reveals earnings data from the various disciplines in which college graduates engage. The new scrutiny on salaries for degree earners versus certificate earners, economic mobility after college, and investments in the field of education, are said to be fueling the interest in evaluating the cost of higher education.

Commission Co-Chair Mildred García, president of the American Association of State Colleges and Universities, said “We definitely are hoping that it will affect the higher ed reauthorization
act, and look at the way we’re looking at things like Pell, and Federal and state match,” García said during a recent conference call to discuss the effort. “We are hoping that this commission can continue its work over the year, and at the same time inform the policy makers of what our findings are. We definitely are hoping that it will affect the higher ed reauthorization act, and look at the way we’re examining things like Pell, and federal and state match,” García said.

Commission leaders say they won’t be solely focused on money, they’ll also acknowledge noneconomic returns to higher education like creative and critical thinking skills, as well as greater civic participation.

A best-selling author, Editor in chief at the Journal of Negro Education, and Former Executive Director at the White House Initiative on Historically Black Colleges and Universities, in the Obama Administration, Dr. Toldson is a sought-after panelist on issues regarding education in general, and the education of African American children specifically.

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