QEM REVEALS LINE-UP OF EXPERT PRESENTERS FOR SEMINARS AIMED AT INCREASING MINORITY-SERVING INSTITUTIONS IN RESEARCH

(Washington, DC) The Quality Education for Minorities Network (QEM) today, firmed up plans for its seminars happening during the weekend of May 31st, designed to increase the number of minority-serving institutions that can compete for research grants and scholarships. The organization released the names of its primary presenters for the NOYCE project, a series of braintrusts designed to increase the number of Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) educators who are able to access the grants that are available through the National Science Foundation (NSF).

“When we design a program that’s focused on immediate, measurable results, we seek out the best consultants, who can deliver impactful material in a short window of time,” said Ivory A. Toldson, QEM’s president and CEO. “Our clients are in positions of influence at their institutions, and are not able to be absent from their jobs for long periods. Our experts understand this, and plan our seminars based on the specific outcomes that can be accomplished within a specified window of exposure,” he added.

The list of presenters for this gathering includes, Chance W. Lewis, the Carol Grotnes Belk Distinguished Professor of Urban Education at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte (UNC Charlotte). He is the Executive Director of UNC Charlotte’s Urban Education Collaborative which is publishing a new generation of research on improving urban schools. Dr. Lewis currently teaches graduate courses in the field of Urban Education at UNC Charlotte.

QEM has also enlisted the services of Mark A. Melton, a professor of biology at Saint Augustine’s University in Raleigh, North Carolina. He currently serves as dean for the School of Sciences, Mathematics & Public Health. In that role, he has gained valuable insights regarding the landscape, culture and demands of managing grants at the college and university level.
QEM has also secured the services of Judith Quander, Associate Professor of Mathematics Education in the Department of Mathematics and Statistics at the University of Houston Downtown (UHD). Currently, she works primarily with preservice secondary mathematics teachers. Dr. Quander’s NOYCE project has increased the number of mathematics majors with secondary teacher certification by 500% since its inception.

Finally, participants will hear from Zewelanji Serpell, Associate Professor and Director of Graduate Studies in Psychology at Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU). She is a fellow in the American Psychological Association's Minority Fellowship Program, a postdoctoral research fellow with the Quality Education for Minorities Network, and a faculty fellow at the National Center for Research on Early Childhood Education in the Curry School of Education at the University of Virginia (UVA).

QEM has operated the NOYCE program, which is in the National Science Foundation’s Division of Undergraduate Education, since January 2010. It is a tool that seeks to encourage talented science, technology, engineering, and mathematics majors and professionals to become K-12 mathematics and science teachers. The training will take place on Friday, May 31st and Saturday, June 1st at the Hilton Baltimore BWI Airport Hotel located at 1739 West Nursery Road, Linthicum Heights, MD.

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