FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
SEPTEMBER 20, 2021

Contact: Shaunette Bishop
202-659-1818/sbishop@qem.org

Quality Education for Minorities (QEM) Network Appoints New President, New Executive Director

Two trailblazers take the helm at QEM; will lead the organization in its ongoing mission to empower educators and students for a brighter future.

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Effective Today - Quality Education for Minorities (QEM) Network, has named Dr. Erin Lynch as its new President and Dr. Mercy Mugo as its new Executive Director. Established in 1990, QEM is a non-profit organization in Washington D.C., dedicated to improving education for minority students throughout the nation.

“Under the leadership of Dr. Mugo and Dr. Lynch, QEM will continue to be the nation’s premier institution for diversifying the sciences through empowering Minority Serving Institutions and diverse school systems,” proclaimed Dr. Toldson, former President and CEO of QEM. “Both outstanding scholars have the vision, drive, creativity, and compassion necessary to help QEM reach new heights.”

Former QEM President and CEO Dr. Ivory Toldson is now the Director of Research, Education, and Innovation at the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). Dr. Toldson praised QEM as the highlight of his career. Over his five-year tenure, with support from the National Science Foundation (NSF) and NASA, QEM was able to provide technical assistance, professional development, and capacity building workshops to more than 1,900 faculty and staff from Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), Tribal Colleges and Universities (TCUs), and Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSIs). During that same time, the National Science Foundation (NSF) made 251 awards totaling $91,080,970 to individuals and institutions that participated in one or more QEM workshops during the last five years.

Dr. Erin Lynch brings a wealth of academic knowledge and experience in both the STEM and minority equity arenas to her new role as President of QEM. Dr. Lynch is published in the topics of leadership, innovation management, and instructional design and her work has produced nearly $500 million in proposals. Dr. Lynch currently serves as the Associate Provost of Scholarship, Research, and Innovation at Winston-Salem State University. Her academic background includes a B.A. in English and Secondary Education from James Madison University, a M.Ed. in Special Education from Vanderbilt University, and an Ed.D. in
Curriculum & Instruction from Tennessee State University. She will soon receive her Ph.D. in Industrial Organizational Psychology from Northcentral University.

The QEM Network is also pleased to announce the appointment of Dr. Mercy Mugo as its new Executive Director. Dr. Mugo has nearly a decade of experience designing and implementing capacity building and research projects focused on students and faculty at Minority-Serving Institutions (MSIs). She is motivated by her desire to increase access to opportunities that enhance academic and professional outcomes for groups underrepresented in STEM. Dr. Mugo holds a B.A in Education from the University of Nairobi, Kenya, and an M.A. and Ph.D. in Psychometrics from Morgan State University.

“I am honored to serve QEM and our institutions in the role of President,” Dr. Lynch said. “Dr. Toldson and the team have created a blueprint for success that can be built upon to expand QEM’s capacity and long-term impact, and I look forward to being able to contribute to this work. The work QEM does with and for our minority serving institutions is as important now as it was when Dr. McBay served as the first CEO and President.”

“I feel privileged to have worked at QEM under the leadership of both Dr. McBay and Dr. Toldson - revolutionary leaders and GIANT shoes to fill,” Dr. Mugo declared. “I’ve witnessed Dr. Toldson lead the organization to new heights while providing opportunities for staff to grow. His mentorship has prepared me for this role.”

About QEM

Established in 1990, the QEM Network is a non-profit organization in Washington, D.C., dedicated to improving education for minorities throughout the nation. It is the successor organization to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)-based QEM Project that was funded by the Carnegie Corporation of New York. The QEM Network works with individuals, organizations, and institutions around the country to build equitable, inclusive, and rigorous educational experiences for groups traditionally underrepresented in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). Learn more at QEM.org

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(For print or broadcast interviews with Dr. Erin Lynch, please contact Shaunette Bishop, 202-659-1818 or sbishop@qem.org)

1818 N Street, NW, Suite 350,
Washington, DC, 20036
202-659-1818
QEMNetwork.org