

QUALITY EDUCATION FOR MINORITIES (QEM) NETWORK PRESS RELEASE



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Quality Education for Minorities (QEM) Network Receives Largest NSF Grant Since 1993

S-STEM-Research Hub award from the National Science Foundation to empower robust and innovative research pathways for low-income students at HBCUs to enter successful careers in STEM

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Effective Today — The Quality Education for Minorities (QEM) Network in partnership with the American Institutes for Research (AIR) has been awarded \$2,999,186.00 to provide an infrastructure for a strategic HBCU alliance to collaborate and expand their knowledge base on effective strategies to support domestic, low-income, talented STEM students. This award will allow the QEM/AIR team to better understand strategies for engaging and graduating low-income STEM students. The award is titled

S-STEM-Hub: Investigating the Capacity of Historically Black Colleges and Universities to Develop, Accommodate, and Graduate Low-Income STEM Students (see [abstract](#) for more details).

Dr. Ivory Toldson, Howard University Professor and the Director of Education Innovation and Research for the NAACP will serve as the Principal Investigator. Co-principal Investigators include Dr. Mercy Mugo, Executive Director, QEM Network and Dr. Jennifer Hudson, Researcher, American Institutes for Research (AIR).

Dr. Ivory Toldson, Principal Investigator shares this project will, "Support a collaborative of HBCU-based scholars to research what works for propelling low-income students to excel in STEM majors and careers."

Dr. Mercy Mugo, QEM Executive Director, QEM will leverage its over 30 years relationship with HBCUs to understand the critical characteristics of HBCUs associated with supporting the progression of low-income students along the STEM educational and career pipeline. "The project will provide a platform and a range of opportunities for STEM faculty at HBCUs that host S-STEM programs to interact directly and efficiently with other researchers to stimulate partnerships and capacity building in STEM education and research."

Dr. Erin Lynch, QEM president, believes this project's contribution to the organizational portfolio of QEM reflects the future of QEM and its impact on the STEM and academic

community. "The QEM S-STEM Hub award represents the direction in which QEM is headed in STEM education improvement for minorities, and minority serving institutions. QEM has been an organization dedicated to providing high quality capacity building support to minority serving institutions as established by Dr. McBay in 1990. Under our current leadership, QEM is moving toward expanding its portfolio of services to include Hub coordination and backbone supports to other organizations."

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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