

# QUALITY EDUCATION FOR MINORITIES (QEM) NETWORK PRESS RELEASE



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## **Multi-Foundation Consortium Project**

*QEM funded to develop framework that is inclusive of the voices and experiences of American Indian and Alaskan Native students, elders, and higher ed leaders*

**WASHINGTON, D.C. – Effective Today—** Quality Education for Minorities (QEM) Network has been awarded just over \$500,000 through a multi-foundational consortium to include Lumina, Gates Foundation and another to plan and conduct community-based research across 4 regions served by the US Department of the Interior Indian Affairs Office. The consortium supported research will develop a framework for post-secondary matriculation for Indigenous students. This funding will allow QEM to co-design a framework that is inclusive of the voices and experiences of Indigenous communities. QEM envisions this framework will be beneficial to our institutions that serve American Indian and Alaskan Native student populations.

Dr. Erin Lynch, QEM Network President and Certified Research Administrator will serve as the Principal Investigator who will lead the Lumina Foundation Project with Dr. Wendy F. K'ah Skaahluwaa Smythe, the Dr. Henry Highholt Endowed Professor at the University of Minnesota Duluth, who will serve as Co-PI.

Dr. Lynch shares, "Over 500 Indigenous cultural groups exist in America and supporting our institutions to inclusively meet the need of these diverse communities is critical to student success. This project intends to help these efforts."

### **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](http://QEM.org)

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