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## Presidents of Louis Stokes Alliances for Minority Participation Institutions

March 14, 2012

Dear Fellow Americans:

We the undersigned university presidents are proud to report to you that, with the help of the National Science Foundation's (NSF's) Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation Program (LSAMP), our universities came together in a nation-wide effort that has been successful in helping to build a stronger and more vital national science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) workforce for now and the future. The LSAMP program is a nation-wide alliance of 644 universities, colleges, community colleges, corporations, foundations, educational associations, government laboratories, museums and field stations.

By means of these alliances, the NSF LSAMP Program promotes prosperity through the creation of opportunities for growing segments of our national population that have historically been less than fully engaged in the national engine of economic growth, namely the STEM fields. In the 21<sup>st</sup> century, technological prowess and the full engagement of ALL of our citizenry in working toward the goal of out-innovating, out-educating, and out-building the rest of the world is without doubt the tried, true and surest way to continue the legacy of national prosperity in the United States.

In 2003 the Supreme Court declared that, "We have repeatedly acknowledged the overriding importance of preparing students for work and citizenship, describing education as pivotal to 'sustaining our political and cultural heritage' with a fundamental role in maintaining the fabric of society. . . ." For our institutions and the NSF LSAMP alliances led by them, this declaration has been molded into action.

Attached is a compilation of the tremendously successful impact that the National Science Foundation's LSAMP Program has had across the USA. We invite you to review it and judge for yourselves what has transpired thus far and hopefully use it to help plan for what we can all do together to further expand this model ultimately to reach every institution and student in this great nation.

Sincerely,

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President, University of Alabama at Birmingham

*Luna Ross*

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President, Salish Kootenai College

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