Presidents of Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation Institutions

March 12, 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 21st 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,

Carue & Garrison Carol Z. Garrison

President, University of Alabama at Birmingham

m Lawrence A. Davis, Jr

Chancellor, The University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff

Alexander Gonzalez President, California State University, Sacramento

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James H. Ammons President, Florida A&M University

Carlton E. Brown President, Clark Atlanta University

Wayne D. Watson President, Chicago State University

Donald Straney President, University of Hawaii at Hilo

James Llorens Chancellor, Southern University and A&M College

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Carolyn Meyers President, Jackson State University

Lisa S. Coico President, City College of New York

Luna Ross

President. Salish Kootenai College

Michael V. Drake Chancellor, The University of California, Irvine

Anthony A. Frank President, Colorado State University

Philip Yeagle Interim Chancellor, Rutgers-University Newark

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John M. Rudley / President, Texas Southern University

France A. Córdova President, Purdue University

Eli Capilouto // President, University of Kentucky

Mary Sue Coleman President, University of Michigan

Barbara Couture President, New Mexico State University

Harold L. Martin, <u>Sr</u> Chancellor, North Carolina A&T State University

Eric Kaler

President, The University of Minnesota, Twin Cities

Jun Burns Hargis

President, Oklahoma State University

Michael Young President, University of Washington

John A. Fry

President, Drexel University

George E. Cooper President, South Carolina State University

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Portia Holmes Shields President, Tennessee State University

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Diana Natalicio President, The University of Texas at El Paso

Nancy Cantor Chancellor, Syracuse University

erisa A. Inllion

Teresa A. Sullivan President, The University of Virginia

Michael Crew

Michael M. Crow President, Arizona State University

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Robert C. Holub Chancellor, University of Massachusetts, Amherst

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Tom Case Chancellor, The University of Alaska Anchorage

Michael F. Adams President, The University of Georgia

Q. muno

Miguel A. Muñoz President, University of Puerto Rico

Samuel L. Stanley Jr President, Stony Brook University

R. Bowen Loftin

President, Texas A&M University

Freeman A. Hrabowski, III President, The University of Maryland, Baltimore County

J. Keith Motley Chancellor, The University of Massachusetts, Boston

Pail Sidney A. Ribeau

President, Howard University

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David Ward Interim Chancellor, The University of Wisconsin-Madison