

March 30, 2009

TO: HBCU Presidents and Chancellors

FROM: Leonard L. Haynes III, Ph.D.
Executive Director
White House Initiative on HBCUs

SUBJECT: Mark Your Calendar (Tuesday, June 9, 2009)
Invitational HBCU Teaching and Teacher Education Forum

The White House Initiative on Historically Black Colleges and Universities in collaboration with the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS), is pleased to invite you to participate in an *HBCU Teaching and Teacher Education Forum*, scheduled for **Tuesday, June 9, 2009, from 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.** at the U.S. Department of Education, Barnard Auditorium, 400 Maryland Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. The forum's purpose is to highlight the contributions of HBCU teacher education programs and the importance of increasing the number of HBCU teacher education graduates who meet the standards for National Board certification. In addition to HBCU representatives, the forum will also include the participation of senior representatives from major educational associations and groups. The Honorable Arne Duncan, Secretary, U.S. Department of Education, has been invited to address the forum. The contribution of both NBPTS and HBCUs are significant to the Obama Administration's effort and commitment to improve teacher quality and achievement for all students.

NBPTS, an independent, nonprofit and nonpartisan organization, is a major contributor in advancing the education reform movement dedicated to improving student achievement, teacher performance and making schools better. Teachers who achieve National Board certification meet high standards through study, expert evaluation, self-assessment and peer review. President Obama and Secretary Duncan have publicly acknowledged the contributions being made by NBPTS in developing, recognizing, and retaining a quality teaching force for the nation's schools.

Since their establishment, Historically Black Colleges and Universities have played a major role in the preparation and production of exceptional educators. The forum will underscore the importance of enhancing this critical role.

Again, it is my hope you will respond in the affirmative to this invitation. Additional information will be forthcoming regarding the agenda, registration and lodging. ReShone L. Moore, Ph.D., is the point of contact for this initiative and can be reached on 202-502-7893 or reshone.moore@ed.gov. Your continued support in assisting the Initiative in implementing this important expression of the executive order is deeply appreciated.