

## CALL TO CONFERENCE

**What:** NAFEO 34<sup>th</sup> National Conference on Blacks in Higher Education and 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration

**Where:** Atlanta, GA

**When:** April 1-4, 2009

**Purpose:** The NAFEO 34<sup>th</sup> National Conference on Blacks in Higher Education will mark NAFEO's 40th anniversary, the 41st anniversary of the assassination of Morehouse alumnus, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and the beginning of a new era with a new Administration, a new Congress, new executives in governors' mansions across the country, new state legislators, a new business/philanthropic/ non-profit paradigm, and a new global financial archetype. NAFEO sees this convergence of events as a tremendous opportunity to expand upon its annual National Conference on Blacks in Higher Education to convene a wider range of stakeholders to reach consensus on a National Agenda on Blacks in Higher Education, a blueprint for helping black students achieve equity and excellence in higher education in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, and to position the HBCU and PBI communities to lead the nation in realizing The Lumina Foundation's goal of having 60% of Americans hold a 2- or 4-year college degree by 2025.

In addition to engaging sessions and town hall meetings, the convening will provide an opportunity to celebrate the past, present, and future of America's black colleges. These events include:

- 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala (including the presentation of NAFEO NOBLE Prizes for distinguished faculty and Mays-Johnson Award for an exemplary black college president);
- NAFEO Distinguished Alumni Awards celebration;
- Black College Expo and Career Fair;
- Campus or community activity designed to engage the collective black college community in commemorating the life and work of Dr. King.

**Who Should Attend:** This convening will be a unique opportunity for stakeholders across the higher education spectrum and in the health, labor, workforce, business and entrepreneurship spectra to play a direct role in shaping the direction of higher education policy for black students and for America's black colleges. NAFEO believes that the following groups must be well represented at the conference in order to reach consensus on and to subsequently adopt a realistic, quantifiable National Agenda on Blacks in Higher Education:

- The entire black college community – presidents, chancellors, administrators (i.e. Title III directors, provosts, deans, financial aid personnel, admissions and academic affairs professionals, procurement officers, human resources directors, student service professionals and others), faculty, students, parents and alumni
- Researchers
- Legislators (federal and state) and key legislative staffers
- Health professionals
- Educators and education policy professionals (PK-12 pipeline)
- Business, philanthropic, government, advocacy, civic, fraternal and faith leaders

**Desired Outcomes:** The outcome from this convening will be a public policy and community actions agenda with concrete, quantifiable action steps to reducing childhood poverty, providing more students a Healthy Start and Head Start; closing the education achievement and attainment gaps, salary and wealth gaps, and civic participation rates, and moving the African American community toward realizing the 60% degree attainment rate by 2025. This will lead to a healthier, more educated, more economically secure "Black Community;" more diversity in domestic and global labor forces, stronger neighborhoods in the HBCU service areas and a more robust economy.

*For information regarding the conference, please contact Rhonda Fischer, Senior Manager of Marketing and Development via email at [rfischer@nafeo.org](mailto:rfischer@nafeo.org) or telephone at (202) 552-3360.*