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\$10 Million Grant Received to Engage Historically Underrepresented Students in Engineering

Historically underrepresented students as well as women are often absent from engineering courses across colleges and universities. However, a group of researchers and educators have received a \$10 million funding award from the National Science Foundation INCLUDES Alliance to reverse this trend.

Led by Principal Investigator Dr. Karl Reid from Northeastern University, multiple partners including the National Society of Black Engineers, Society of Women Engineers, American Indian Science and Engineering Society, Sage Fox Consulting, and faculty and administrators from Northeastern University and Drexel University intend to increase the number of underrepresented students (including Black, Hispanic, and Indigenous) and women obtaining engineering degrees. Engineering PLUS (Partnerships Launching Underrepresented Students) seeks to achieve transformative, systemic, and sustainable change by providing the infrastructure for creating and scaling successful strategies.

Peoria, IL-based CSEdResearch.org is excited to support this important work and will provide expertise in studying the project's impacts to make the project as effective as possible. Our researchers will be investigating the role of engagement activities across the Alliance, the impact of social interactions, and the institutional and structural barriers at play that block underrepresented students from entering and/or graduating with engineering degrees.

"This is another spoke in the wheel of progress to address the need for highly trained engineers in the U.S., while at the same time ensuring equitable distribution of opportunities," said Monica McGill, President & CEO of CSEdResearch.org.

"Engineering talent exists everywhere, not just within certain communities, and this project is poised to redress some of the barriers that exist for underserved and underrepresented students to be aware of and successfully earn an engineering degree."

The final goal of the project is to create a framework of ideas for others to continue the work of expanding to broader impacts for underrepresented students to enter the engineering field.

CSEdResearch.org is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization whose work focuses on high-quality education research and evaluation. Currently in its first full-year of operation, the organization has secured over \$1MM in funding and has quickly grown to three full-time employees.