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NACME receives Lumina Foundation grant, launches demonstration project

White Plains, N.Y.--The Lumina Foundation for Education recently awarded the National Action Council for Minorities in Engineering, Inc. (NACME) a \$91,000 one-year planning grant to design a program to increase the number of underrepresented minorities who begin their community college career in developmental mathematics and move on to complete the bachelor's degree in engineering.

Led by Dr. Irving Pressley McPhail, NACME's Executive Vice President and COO, "Beyond the Dream: *From Developmental Mathematics to Engineering Careers for Underrepresented Minorities*" builds on the pioneering work of the Achieving the Dream (AtD) community colleges in improving student success rates in developmental mathematics and connects this work with NACME's national network of 50 college and university partners that are responsible for producing nearly one-third of underrepresented minority students in the nation graduating with engineering degrees.

"This is a truly monumental undertaking," said Dr. McPhail. "The 'Beyond the Dream' project is the first effort of its kind to link the values and goals of developmental education in the community college to a career path in engineering for underrepresented minority students."

The project's goal of increased underrepresented minority representation will be met by the creation and implementation of a national program that contextualizes developmental mathematics in engineering and provides engineering awareness, academic support and scholarship support to students.

Beyond the Dream's first steps include the convening of a National Roundtable in April 2009. The roundtable will consist of mathematics and engineering faculty from AtD community colleges and NACME Partner Universities who will develop project-based learning strategies in developmental mathematics that integrate engineering concepts and increase awareness of engineering careers and degree requirements at four-year institutions.

The three-day roundtable takes place April 15-17, 2009 at the AT&T Executive Education and Conference Center at the University of Texas at Austin. Dr. Paula M. Hudis, Director for Pathway and Curriculum Development, ConnectEd: The California Center for College and Career will serve as consultant and facilitator.

For more information, please contact Tara Falcone, Program Manager, Pre-Engineering, at 914-539-4010 ext. 291 or tfalcone@nacme.org or visit www.nacme.org/beyondthedream.