July 9, 2007

Dear Colleagues:

The University of Nevada Las Vegas (UNLV), a major metropolitan research university serving over 28,000 students and strategically situated in the convention capitol of the world, is planning to host, in October of 2008, in Las Vegas, a national conference devoted to examining concepts, issues, empirical findings and, most importantly, effective strategies related to the recruitment and retention of women and minority graduate students and faculty to the engineering and science disciplines.

The overarching purpose of the conference will be to generate guidelines for use by academic institutions across the nation to enhance the participation of women and minorities in the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) disciplines and thereby help achieve much needed diversification in the nation’s technological and scientific workforce.

One of the most important challenges facing our educational system today is encouraging women and minorities to pursue higher education in the STEM disciplines. In an increasingly global economy, our continued success and good fortune as a nation depends on our ability to remain competitive in technological and scientific endeavors. A key factor in this complex issue is our ability to engage the great untapped potential represented by bright, capable, and hard-working women and persons of color who encounter barriers to entering technological and scientific fields of study in academia and in the business world. Indeed, given directions in the global economy, a compelling argument can be made that the ability of our universities to improve educational and professional opportunities for women and minorities in the STEM disciplines is essential to the future academic success, economic growth, national security, and social development of the nation.

We invite you to consider an investment in this pioneering effort. Your participation as a sponsor of the Conference would showcase your leadership in the drive to expand our country’s technological capabilities and economic competitiveness. Your support for this endeavor is essential to make more opportunities available for women and minorities to pursue careers in the STEM fields, academically and beyond. We strongly encourage you to examine the enclosed brochure which outlines ways you and your organization can become involved with this breakthrough conference. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

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