

For Immediate Release

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Branch Alliance for Educator Diversity Welcomes New Board Members

Austin, Texas—October 23, 2019: The Branch Alliance for Educator Diversity (BranchED) is pleased to announce the appointment of two new members to its board of directors--Dr. Candice McQueen, Chief Executive Officer of the National Institute for Excellence in Training (NIET) and Jim Larimore, Chief Officer for the Center for Equity in Learning at ACT.



Dr. Candice McQueen has been a lifelong educator. Prior to joining NIET, Dr. McQueen was Tennessee’s commissioner of education for four years. She also worked in higher education, serving as senior vice president and dean of the college of education at Lipscomb University. She started her education career as a classroom teacher, teaching in both public and private elementary and middle schools in Tennessee and Texas. McQueen also serves on the Board for the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP), is a member of Chiefs for Change, serves on the Results for America state advisory committee, and was recently named a distinguished faculty member in education at Lipscomb University.



Jim Larimore has had a career in higher education focused on college access and student success. He served as deputy director for student success at the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, and as a student affairs leader at campuses including Stanford, Dartmouth, Swarthmore and NYU Abu Dhabi in the United Arab Emirates. Larimore’s postsecondary career began as assistant dean and director for the American Indian Program at Stanford. He serves on numerous boards and advisory councils including: an Advisor for Michelle Obama’s Reach Higher Campaign, the Aspen Institute’s Forum for Community Solutions, the United Negro College Fund’s Career Pathways Initiative, the Center for Postsecondary Readiness and Success at American University, and the Hope Center for College, Community and Justice at Temple University.

“We could not be more thrilled to have Dr. McQueen and Mr. Larimore on the board,” Dr. Cassandra Herring said, BranchED Founder, President, and CEO. “They bring years of distinguished experience

working in the education industry and are joining the organization at a time when BranchED is rapidly growing.”

Dr. Curtis Martin, BranchED Chairperson noted: “The addition of Dr. McQueen and Mr. Larimore complements our dedicated board given their background and passion for equity in education.”

BranchED’s board of directors is comprised of seven professionals who bring a variety of expertise in education and non-profits. To see the complete list of BranchED board members, please visit www.educatordiversity.org/board-members.

About Branch Alliance for Educator Diversity

BranchED is the only non-profit organization in the country dedicated to strengthening, growing, and amplifying the impact of educator preparation at Minority Serving Institutions (MSIs), with the longer-range goals of both diversifying the teaching profession and intentionally addressing critical issues of educational equity for all students. The organization’s vision is for all students to have access to diverse, highly effective educators. To learn more about BranchED’s work, please visit www.educatordiversity.org.

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