

**For Immediate Release**

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## **Teacher Educators from Across the Nation to Convene in Austin to Tackle Equity, Diversity Challenges**

**Austin, Texas**—March 5, 2020: Education deans and faculty from four universities will gather in Austin, Texas, March 10-12, to address some of the most pressing equity and diversity issues the nation’s classrooms are currently facing. In taking a closer look at these challenges, these universities are transforming the way they prepare, recruit and retain teachers, especially teachers of colors. This type of transformation ultimately results in producing effective teachers for all learners. Research supports a myriad of benefits for students who have access to a diverse teacher workforce.

**WHO:** The faculty and leaders from the four universities are gathering as part of Branch Alliance for Educator Diversity’s (BranchED) National Teacher Preparation Transformation Center. BranchED is a national non-profit based in Austin serving colleges of education at 122 Minority Serving Institutions in 34 states, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. That’s an impact on 26,000 college students who are currently pursuing a teaching career. The cohort is comprised of education deans and faculty from the following universities:

- University of Texas, Rio Grande Valley
- North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University
- California State University, Fresno
- South Carolina State University

**WHEN:** March 10-12

\*Best opportunity for photos and b-roll is March 11 between 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m

**WHERE:** Sonesta Bee Cave Austin  
12525 Bee Cave Pkwy, Bee Cave, TX 78738

### **About Branch Alliance for Educator Diversity**

Minority Serving Institutions (MSIs) often go unnoticed in the national conversation about diversifying the teaching workforce but BranchED recognizes the crucial role they play in diversifying the nation's teacher workforce. Even though MSIs represent just 13 percent of programs in the country, they're producing 43 percent of our nation's teachers of color.

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

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