



**Branch Alliance**  
for Educator Diversity

# BranchED Bulletin

Feb. 16, 2021

## Access This BranchED Case Study to Improve Educator Program Engagement with District Partners

The first design principle in the *Framework for the Quality Preparation of Educators* created by BranchED details a critical shift in the way Educator Preparation Providers (EPPs) engage with PK-12 districts. The design principle calls on EPPs to establish a "Community of Learners" with their district partners that is centered on leadership, ongoing collaboration, and shared responsibility for the preparation of teacher candidates. The shifts outlined in the Community of Learners design principle are illustrated by a developmental trajectory that moves from "EPP-Centered" to "Community-Engaged" across five indicators. The Community of Learners design principle presents a clear progressive trajectory to guide and facilitate planning, implementation, and progress monitoring. Download BranchED's [\*Creating a Community of Learners: A Case Study\*](#) to find out more about these design principals. **REQUEST your unabridged copy.**



## TOOT YOUR HORN: Virginia State University's Educator Program Recently Earned Accolades

The Washington, D.C.-based think tank National Council on Teacher Quality (NCTQ) gave Virginia State University's College of Education an A rating in clinical practice and classroom management. NCTQ provides annual rankings after vetting the training provided by more than 1,000 elementary teacher preparation programs across the country. Congratulations VSU! [[READ MORE](#)]



## 50CAN Selects BranchED President as a 2021 National Voices Fellow

BranchED is excited to announce that President/CEO Dr. Cassandra Herring has been selected as a 2021 50CAN



National Voices Fellow! The fellowship brings together a collection of education leaders and messengers to focus on communications, politics and the future of education policy, with the goal of increasing exposure to a national audience. Dr. Herring joins a distinguished list of **Cohort 2021 honorees**.

**Teacher Preparation Programs at Six Minority Serving Institutions Transform Educator Preparation by Explicitly Infusing Equity into Programming**



Educator preparation providers at six minority-serving institutions (MSIs) across the United States selected to participate in BranchED's National Teacher Preparation Transformation Center will undergo an immersion process aimed at producing highly effective and diverse teachers.

Institutions comprising BranchED's National Teacher Preparation Transformation Center's Cohort 2 include **Alabama A&M University** in Huntsville, Ala., **Mount Saint Mary's University** in Los Angeles, Calif., **Texas A&M International University** in Laredo, Texas, **University of La Verne** in La Verne Calif., **Virginia State University** in Petersburg, Va., and **West Texas A&M University** in Canyon, Texas.

Through participation in the Transformation Center -- a three-year program -- these colleges and universities join a unique community of practice where each institution's faculty and their respective school district partners can access enhanced resources and professional development, network with others, share data and learn from each other to move forward with sustainability and innovation. The larger goals of BranchED's Transformation Center include both diversifying the teaching profession and intentionally addressing critical issues of educational equity for all students. [[READ MORE HERE](#)]

Visit the [Transformation Center Cohort 2](#) microsite to learn more about our Cohort 2 partners and BranchED.

**Professional Development Opportunity**



**Branch Alliance for Educator Diversity**

**Registration Is Open for BranchED's MSI EPP Brunch during AACTE's 73rd Annual Conference**

The Branch Alliance for Educator Diversity (BranchED) will host our MSI EPP "Brunch" at the

AACTE 73rd Annual Conference from **noon - 1:30 p.m. CT, Feb. 23, 2021**.

**PARTNERS IN PRIME:** Creating and maintaining prime partnerships between MSI educator preparation programs and their respective school districts are key to development of candidates and continuing quality educational experiences for all students, particularly in pandemically-changed educational environments. If you or your designees/colleagues would like to attend our event, please complete this [RSVP FORM](#). Please submit one RSVP response for each attendee. NOTE: AACTE Conference registration is *not required* for participation in this BranchED event.

Reach out to [Mark Bailey](mailto:mbailey@educatordiversity.org), Manager of Organizational Learning and Analytics (mbailey@educatordiversity.org) with any questions or concerns regarding this form.

## BranchED's President Was Featured Guest on the Next Education Workforce Podcast

Brent Maddin visited with Dr. Cassandra Herring recently on the Next Education Workforce Podcast, which is put on by the Mary Lou Fulton Teachers College of Arizona State University. Take a moment to listen to their insightful discussion. [\[LISTEN HERE\]](#)



## Grant to Support Bolstering Teacher Preparation at Minority Serving Institutions

Branch Alliance for Educator Diversity has been awarded a grant to assist minority serving institutions (MSIs) in preparing highly effective, diverse teachers and to gain insight about the specific needs, challenges, and aspirations of these institutions. The 24-month, \$400,000 grant, awarded by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, supports BranchED in providing capacity building support to educator preparation providers (EPPs) that are striving to improve their programs to consistently prepare highly effective diverse teachers.

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Over the course of the grant, BranchED will conduct special outreach with MSI EPPs in Florida and New Mexico, collecting and analyzing data and gaining insight about their unique needs, challenges, and aspirations. Florida has 14 MSI EPPs, the third highest number in the country, including nine Hispanic Serving Institutions, four Historically Black Colleges and Universities, and a Predominantly Black Institution, which account for 24% of all the teacher preparation programs in Florida, but prepare 40% of all the candidates of color in the state. New Mexico has eight HSIs and one institution with dual designation as an Alaskan Native or Native Hawaiian-Serving Institution and a Native American Serving Non-Tribal Institution. Collectively, they account for 69% of all the EPPs in New Mexico and prepare 79% of all the candidates of color in the state. [\[READ MORE\]](#)



## University of Texas Rio Grande Valley to Host STEM Education Conference

The Fourth Annual STEM Education Conference will be held virtually from **Feb. 25 – 27, 2021**. The conference will continue to focus on address P-20 STEM education issues and ensure all students have the opportunity for success. This year's theme is, "Challenges with being the good disruptor: Toward transformative practices in STEM education." It is inspired by the vision and work of the late Congressman John Lewis who challenged people to be good trouble, necessary trouble. Keynote speakers include Dr. Melody Russell, Professor at Auburn University and Dr. Wesley Pitts, Professor at Lehman College, CUNY. Please [REGISTER](#) now.

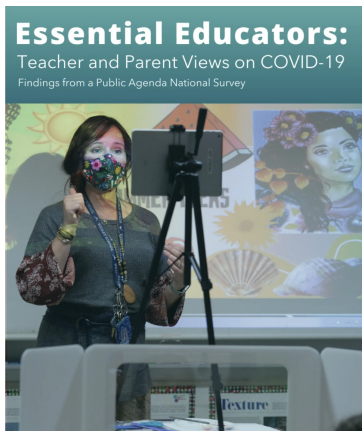
The Fourth Annual STEM Education Conference will be held virtually

**Acting Secretary of Education to Extend Pause on Federal Student Loan Payments**



U.S. Department of Education

A press release from the U.S. Department of Education recently announced that, at the request of President Joe Biden, the Acting Secretary of Education will extend a pause on federal student loan payments and collections. The Department also plans to keep the interest rate at 0%. [\[READ MORE\]](#)



## New Report Details Teacher and Parent Views on COVID-19

A national survey conducted by Public Agenda turned up interesting findings regarding teacher and parent views on education issues during the COVID-19 pandemic. For example, more than half of both teachers and parents feel that their communities value teachers more now than before the pandemic. Survey results are compiled in [Essential Educators: Teacher and Parent Views on COVID-19](#), which is available for download on the Public Agenda website.

Follow BranchED's social media network and join in the MSI conversations.  
Hashtags: [#EducatorDiversity](#) [#Diversity](#) [#MSIs](#) [#DEI](#) [#TeachersOfColor](#) [#HigherEd](#)

