



**The National Society of Black Engineer's endorses the MSI STEM Achievement Act**

**(ALEXANDRIA, Virginia)** The National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE) proudly endorses the MSI STEM Achievement Act introduced by Congresswoman Eddie Bernice Johnson (TX-30) to support STEM education and research at minority serving institutions. NSBE has set a primary goal of increasing the annual number of African American Bachelor's engineering degree recipients to 10,000 by 2025. According to the American Society of Engineering Education, in 2018 only 4.2 % (4,544) of all bachelor's degrees were awarded to African American students -- a marginal uptick from 4.1% in 2017. At this rate the U.S. will remain well below the 13.2 % that represents parity for African Americans unless comprehensive and data-derived legislation to support the advancement of STEM for the modern 21st Century is enacted.

With the passage of MSI STEM Achievement Act colleges, universities, their partners, and supporters will have the necessary tools to ensure that stakeholders have the capacity to assess the hard data and metrics to identify current gaps in funding from Federal science agencies, training needs, and ensure the efficient matriculation of black undergraduate students in engineering. Additionally, it will help our students, advocates and educators know exactly which resources are available to support STEM education so that more time can be spent in the classroom learning the 21st Century skills, conducting cutting-edge research for the advancement of the communities we live in, and exposing students to the many career opportunities within STEM and how it impacts the advancement of our country and the world.

As the saying goes, *it takes a village*. We urge Congress and the President to swiftly act on this important piece of legislation and pass the MSI STEM Achievement Act so that African American students and other minorities have the ability to have stake in STEM and bring diverse perspectives to the profession because the future of America depends on it.

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*With more than 600 chapters and nearly 25,000 active members in the U.S. and abroad, the National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE) is one of the largest student-governed organizations based in the United States. NSBE, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization founded in 1975, supports and promotes the aspirations of collegiate and pre-collegiate students and technical professionals in engineering and technology. NSBE's mission is "to increase the number of culturally responsible Black Engineers who excel academically, succeed professionally and positively impact the community."*

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