

The PhD Project and White House Initiative on Educational Excellence for Hispanics Holds Third Regional Summit at University of Texas-El Paso

Critical conversations between regional and local business, academia, and government leaders to provide access and opportunity to Hispanics in Higher Education

(El Paso, TX) October 20, 2017 -- **“Views From The Border,”** the third regional **PhD Project Diversity Summit, held in conjunction with the White House Initiative on Educational Excellence for Hispanics, takes place today at the University of Texas-El Paso (UTEP).** UTEP’s College of Business Administration is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year, and has been a long time supporter of The PhD Project.

The Southwest Summit on Diversifying Business by Enhancing Hispanic-American Educational Attainment, Chaired by Dr. Laura Trevino, has three main objectives. First and foremost, the Summit is intended to raise awareness of the issue and economic implications of the state of Latino educational attainment for key stakeholders. Second, the Summit is intended as an opportunity for universities, employers, and external but relevant organizations to showcase resources available to Hispanic-American undergraduates, graduate students and faculty. Finally, the Summit is intended as an idea sharing and problem solving platform.

The PhD Project, an award-winning program to create a more diverse corporate America, joined nearly 150 public and private sector organizations to answer the White House Initiative on Educational Excellence for Hispanics’ call to action in October, 2015. As part of its Commitment to Action, The PhD Project is utilizing its network of over 1,600 minority business faculty and doctoral students (this includes 425 Hispanic-American members) to enhance outreach to Hispanic-American students to improve their completion rate. The objective is to formalize mentoring best practices, encourage not only completion of undergraduate programs, but also the pursuit of graduate and doctorate degrees.

Speakers and roundtable discussion members include **Dr. Diana Natalicio, President, University of Texas at El Paso and Martha Kanter, Former U.S. Under Secretary of Education.**

“The PhD Project Committee on Hispanic Excellence, chaired by Dr. Donna Blancero , is formally recruiting Hispanic-American business professors to serve as mentors to Hispanic students with the purpose of facilitating the students’ successful completion of their undergraduate and graduate degrees through one-on-one mentoring,” said Bernard J. Milano, President of The PhD Project and the KPMG Foundation, co-founder, administrator and lead funder of The PhD Project. “The Hispanic-American mentors will also ‘plant the seed’ encouraging these students to consider a career in business academe, thereby creating a new generation of Hispanic-American mentors, and increasing the reach of the program exponentially each year. We thank Dr. Laura Trevino and her co-Chairs, Dr. Fernando Jimenez and Dr. Edward Ramirez for taking on this charge and are thrilled to be part of this collaboration with the White House.”

The PhD Project was founded by the KPMG Foundation in 1994 then became a separate 501©(3) in 2005, and recruits minority professionals from business into doctoral programs in all

business disciplines. Since its inception, The PhD Project has been responsible for the increase in the number of minority business professors from 294 to 1,358. Further, 270 minorities are currently enrolled in doctoral programs, and will take a place at the front of the classroom over the next few years. The Project attacks the root cause of minority under-representation in corporate jobs: historically, very few minority college students study business as an entrée to a corporate career. Diversifying the faculty attracts more minorities to study business and better prepares all students to function in a diverse workforce.

The PhD Project has received ongoing support from its sponsoring companies, participating universities and organizations, and supply alliance members. Its founding organizations in addition to the [KPMG Foundation](#), are the [Graduate Management Admission Council](#), [Citi Foundation](#), [AACSB International](#). Other leading corporations, foundations and associations funding it include: 298 [Participating Universities](#), [AICPA Foundation](#), [DiversityInc](#), [Dixon Hughes Goodman LLP](#), [American Marketing Association](#), [Rockwell Collins](#), [John Deere Foundation](#), [CIGNA](#), [California State University System](#), [Lincoln Financial Group](#), [Academy of Management](#), [American Accounting Association](#), [City University of New York System](#), [Aerrotek/TEKsystems \(operating companies of Allegis Group\)](#), [NASBA](#), [OCWEN Financial Corporation](#), [Thrivent Financial](#) and [American Express Foundation](#).

For more information on The PhD Project, visit: <http://www.phdproject.org> or contact Lisa King at 646-234-5080 or lisak@mediainpact.biz.

Connect with our members at www.MyPhDNetwork.org; Visit us on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/thePhDproject>; Follow us on Twitter at www.twitter.com/ThePhDProject.

To view the full Summit agenda, visit: <https://www.utep.edu/business/accounting-and-information-systems/research/DiversitySummitPlanning.html>.

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The full list of Commitments to Action and online Commitment catalog is featured at www.ed.gov/hispanicinitiative.