

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Ray Weiss or Jessica Trzyna
443-451-7144 or rweiss@weissprassociates.com

**WHITE HOUSE NAMES NAPE'S BITTERS AND BYARS-WINSTON
"CHAMPIONS OF CHANGE"**

WASHINGTON, DC (12/8/11) --- Barbara A. Bitters and Angela Byars-Winston, Ph.D. – both of whom have played major roles in creating diverse classrooms and workplaces through their work and play key leadership roles for the National Alliance for Partnerships in Equity (NAPE) – have been named “Champions of Change” by The White House.

Each week, the Obama Administration highlights a group of Americans, businesses, or organizations that embody the theme “Innovate, Educate, and Build.” On December 9 from 1-5 pm, the Office of Public Engagement will host an event at the White House to honor those “Champions of Change” who are winning the future by helping to recruit girls and retain women in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) fields.

Agency representatives and White House Policy Offices will host small group discussions between the “Champions of Change” and other notable guests, focused on engaging and supporting girls and women in STEM. These breakouts – which will focus on changing the stereotypes of girls in the sciences and technology, mentoring, and supporting and retaining women in the STEM workforce – will be followed by a larger event at which best practices learned in each area will be discussed.

“We are thrilled that Barbara and Angela have been recognized for their many contributions to promoting equality and diversity in the classroom and the workplace,” says Mimi Lufkin, Chief Executive Officer of NAPE. “We are not only proud of them, but confident that they will make a significant contribution to the discussions occurring December 9 at The White House.”

Dr. Byars-Winston, a counseling psychologist and Associate Professor at the University of Wisconsin, Department of Medicine, has done extensive research on cultural influences on academic and career development, especially for racial and ethnic minorities and women in the sciences, engineering, and medicine, with the aim of broadening their participation in STEM. A member of NAPE’s STEM Equity Pipeline National Advisory Board and a significant contributor to NAPE’s newly developed professional development program for educators, Dr. Byars-Winston has translated her research into evidence-based, culturally-relevant interventions to increase the persistence of underrepresented groups in STEM. Her work targets middle school students to early career professionals.

Ms. Bitters is the Assistant Director for the Career and Technical Education Team at the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction. In this role as well as being the state leader of the Wisconsin Girl's Collaborative Project and the co-leader of the Wisconsin STEM

Equity Pipeline Project, she has focused on developing and refining strategies and activities that attract, serve, and support the success of girls, women, and other underrepresented groups to increase their participation in non-traditional careers, including STEM. Ms. Bitters currently also provides leadership on NAPE's Executive Committee as Treasurer.

About NAPE

The National Alliance for Partnerships in Equity (NAPE) is a national, nonprofit consortium of state and local agencies, corporations, and national organizations that collaborate to create equitable and diverse classrooms and workplaces where there are no barriers to opportunities. Through its Education Foundation, NAPE has been involved in a number of initiatives to increase diversity in America's workforce and to increase opportunities in high-skill, high-wage, high-demand careers. Among these is the National Science Foundation-funded STEM Equity Pipeline Project, which works with educational systems to increase the participation of underrepresented populations in STEM education. For more information, visit www.napequity.org and www.stemequitypipeline.org.