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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Black Teacher Collaborative Receives Grant to Level Algebra Learning Field

Funding will support Black educators in improving Black students' success in Algebra I

Atlanta, Georgia (May 3, 2021) - The [Black Teacher Collaborative \(BTC\)](#) is excited to announce that it is one of 15 organizations selected for Phase 1 grants in the [Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation's](#) first ever U.S. education Grand Challenge. Phase 1 grantees include a diverse cohort of organizations working to make Algebra 1 more accessible, relevant, and collaborative for Black, Latino, English Learners, and students experiencing poverty.

“We were extremely excited and honored to receive this grant from the Gates Foundation knowing that it was a large international pool of applicants,” says Hiewet Senghor, Black Teacher Collaborative CEO. BTC competed against more than 400 global organizations to receive a \$100k planning and prototyping grant from the Gates Foundation to develop, test and pilot a solution to making Algebra 1 more accessible, relevant, and collaborative for Black students.

“Algebra 1 is a gate that stays locked for too many students,” according to the Gates Foundation. “These partners are working to change that and make it a gateway to success.” The Black Teacher Collaborative creates conditions so that there are challenging, affirming, and innovative learning environments staffed with high-quality Black educators equipped to maximize shared racial identity learning experiences in elementary and secondary education.

According to the Gates Foundation, for students who do not complete the basics of Algebra, their chances of graduating from high school are one in five. Black and Latino students who speak a language other than English and students experiencing poverty are particularly affected. “There is inequitable access to high quality math teachers and inadequate mathematics preparation before Algebra 1. Not to mention racially incongruent instructional practices that do not support students of color, particularly Black and Latinx students,” says Senghor. “Succeeding in Algebra 1 unlocks access to important classes in high school that not only further students’ mathematical knowledge via advanced coursework but also builds students’ critical thinking skills that are important for success in high school and beyond,” she adds.

Eleven of the 15 grantee organizations are led by people of color. To learn more about the Black Teacher Collaborative, visit www.BlackTeacherCollaborative.org. To book an interview with Hiewet Senghor to discuss the grant, the program, or the education of Black students, contact Tenisha@PerfectPitchMediaGroup.com.

About Black Teacher Collaborative: *BTC’s mission is to engage, develop and support a collective of Black educators who will ensure that Black children achieve at high levels academically while simultaneously preparing them with the intellectual, social, emotional, and cultural capital to actively participate in the ongoing advancement of their communities across the country.*