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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

# **Black Teacher Collaborative Receives Grant to Fund Algebra I Pilot Program**

Professional Development Designed to Help Black Teachers “Balance the Equation” for Black Students

**Atlanta, GA (August 11, 2021)** - The Black Teacher Collaborative (BTC), is one of 11 grant recipients announced as winners of The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation Grand Challenge in U.S. Education. The Collaborative has received funding to continue its work in destigmatizing Algebra for Black students, working with Black teachers to provide professional development and tools to improve the way they work.

Starting with an initial pilot group of 20-25 Algebra I teachers, BTC’s solution uses a pedagogical framework rooted in the Black teaching tradition to reimagine the teaching and learning landscape, which in turn will help students to build confidence in themselves and their skills as math learners.

“The Algebra I project,” states Black Teacher Collaborative CEO Hiewet Senghor, “roots our work in the interactions between Black students and Black educators. We couldn’t be more honored and excited to have the support of the Gates Foundation to develop programming that creates more affirming environments in Algebra I classrooms for both.”

The Gates Foundation has used the Grand Challenge platform for decades to solve some of the world’s toughest global challenges, sourcing solutions from the world’s brightest minds. In its first-ever education related Grand Challenge, the goal of [Balance the Equation](#) is to encourage new ideas with promise to accelerate student learning toward mastery of Algebra 1 by the end of 9th grade.

Earlier this year the foundation announced an initial group of 15 grantees that received \$100,000 to develop, test, and refine their solutions to make Algebra 1 more accessible, relevant, and collaborative for Black, Latinx, English Learners, and students experiencing poverty. Phase I awardees then could apply for up to \$1 million support in Phase II.

A total of 11 grantees were announced today representing a diverse and impressive cohort of organizations receiving up to \$1 million to put their ideas into action. The Phase II awardees were chosen from over 416 applications from organizations across 26 countries. Specifically, nine of these 11 organizations chosen are minority-led and roughly 45% of them were first-time grantees to the foundation.

***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.*