



Minority Business Professors in U.S. Has Tripled, The PhD Project Reports

2008-02-26
PRNewswire-USNewswire

MONTVALE, N.J., Feb. 26 /PRNewswire-USNewswire/ -- The number of doctorally-qualified minority professors at U.S. business schools has tripled since 1994, due largely to the efforts of The PhD Project, an award-winning program aimed at increasing diversity in America's business management ranks.

Dr. Belinda Shipps became the 882nd minority business school professor when she recently defended her dissertation titled, "Information Technology Staffing Strategies: On the Road to Agility." Dr. Shipps received her Ph.D. in Information Systems from University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. Belinda joined the faculty at North Carolina A&T State University. She was crowned "Dr. Triple" by The PhD Project.

"I am very thankful to all of the people associated with The PhD Project for their support in helping me to complete my degree. I am very excited and proud to be Dr. Triple because tripling the number of minority Ph.D.'s exemplifies the success of the program," said Dr. Shipps.

When The PhD Project was created in 1994, there were only 294 doctorally qualified African-American, Hispanic American or Native American minority business professors in all U.S. business schools out of a population of over 26,000 business school professors. There are now 882. And minority enrollment in doctoral business programs continues to climb, with over 400 doctoral students from The PhD Project currently pursuing Ph.D degrees in universities across the nation..

"We are delighted that our own Dr. Belinda Shipps, who joined the faculty of the School of Business and Economics at North Carolina A&T State University in January 2008, has been awarded the distinguished title of 'Dr. Triple,'" said Quiester Craig, Dean of the business school at North Carolina A&T State University. "Indeed, the importance of The PhD Project is underscored for its commitment to building strong business schools and improving workforce diversity through the development of quality minority business school faculty."

The PhD Project was created to address the severe under-representation of African-Americans, Hispanic-Americans and Native Americans in management positions.. By diversifying the faculty, The PhD Project will: 1) encourage more minorities to pursue business degrees, and 2) better prepare all business students for today's multicultural work environment.

"We are proud of Dr. Shipps' personal accomplishment in completing the challenging journey to becoming a professor," said Bernard J. Milano, President of the KPMG Foundation, the creator and lead sponsor of the program. "Moreover, her achievement symbolizes the collective success of nearly six hundred new minority professors, whom we have recruited, encouraged and supported over the past 13 years. With this milestone and the generous support of our sponsors, together we are changing the face of business education forever."

The PhD Project uses a three-pronged approach to increasing the population of minority business professors. The first component of The PhD Project is a marketing campaign to identify a population of the best and brightest potential Ph.D. candidates of color - via an extensive direct mail, print advertising and public relations campaign.

The second component is its annual conference. Qualified candidates are invited to this two-day annual conference where they hear from deans, professors and current minority doctoral students about the benefits of pursuing a business Ph.D.

The third component of the program is the Minority Doctoral Student Associations, formed by The PhD Project as a means of combating the high (25 percent) attrition rate inherent among all business doctoral students. Through these professional peer associations (in accounting, finance, information systems, management and marketing) minority doctoral students establish peer support relationships with others who

are facing similar challenges on the way to becoming business school professors. The retention rate of doctoral students who are members of these associations exceeds 90 percent.

Some of America's top companies and academic organizations support The PhD Project. They are: KPMG Foundation, Graduate Management Admission Council, 206 Participating Universities, Citi Foundation, AACSB International, AICPA, Robert K. Elliott, JPMorgan Chase Foundation, Hewlett-Packard Company, Goldman, Sachs & Co., The Merck Company Foundation, DiversityInc, ACT-1 Group, Wal-Mart Stores, Inc., Microsoft Corporation and The Schwan Food Company..

For more information visit: <http://www.phdproject.org/>.