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**XCELEADER AND THE COLLECTIVE EDUCATION FUND NAMED GRANT RECIPIENT  
FROM LUMINA FOUNDATION TO SUPPORT VOTE HBCU PROGRAM**

**WASHINGTON, DC** – Xceleader and The Collective Education Fund's national voter registration and engagement program, Vote HBCU, has received a \$200,000 grant from Lumina Foundation to support the work of the program and build the necessary infrastructure to create a year-round program dedicated to civic engagement on Historically Black Colleges and Universities campuses (HBCU).

The award is part of Lumina Foundation's \$15 million commitment to their Racial Justice and Equity Fund over the next three years to support longer-term efforts to improve the climate around race relations on college campuses. Grassroots student organizing and voter engagement led the foundation to gain interest in the Vote HBCU program.

“We are supporting efforts to eradicate and dismantle systemic racism in areas that support and complement the work of Lumina Foundation,” said Danette Howard, senior vice president and chief policy officer at Lumina. “We applaud Xceleader and The Collective Education Fund, which have demonstrated equity-mindedness through training, education, and a commitment to reflecting the community that it serves.” Almost a year ago, Xceleader and The Collective Education Fund established the Vote HBCU program to educate and mobilize HBCU students and alumni across the country to register to vote and develop new opportunities for members of their community to understand the importance of voting. The program’s launch exposed an opportunity and appetite in the HBCU universe for civic engagement and voter education.

“We have to begin educating young Black voters early in the political process to create real change for the future, said Stefanie Brown James, Co-Founder of The Collective Education Fund. “Furthermore, it is more important for us to find solutions to increase Black voter turnout on the college level, and the work of Vote HBCU will continue to do just that.”

The grant will allow the Vote HBCU program to educate students on civic engagement through a direct approach with workshops and training on Black college campuses. An HBCU civic engagement curriculum is currently in its early development stages to help students lead their campus community to increase voter education and turnout year-round. During the 2020 Presidential election cycle, the program trained over 200 HBCU student leaders and built relationships with 25 schools to encourage students to explore their right to vote.

“Oftentimes the power of HBCU voters goes overlooked—HBCUs serve a unique demographic of students that do not fit what some come to know as the college student voting bloc; therefore, we felt it was important to create a program specifically centered around activating and

mobilizing HBCU students and highlighting just how impactful HBCUs are to the electoral process,” said Xceleader Co-Founder Jade Agudosi.

Over the next two years, the Vote HBCU program will expand to more campuses and will have the infrastructure necessary to make a greater impact in future local, state and federal elections.

### **About Xceleader**

Xceleader is a non-profit organization focused on cultivating the next generation of leaders at historically black colleges and universities (HBCU). Over the past 2 years, Xceleader has built a strong network of student leaders at 60+ HBCUs and trained over 200 HBCU student leaders through its leadership conferences and fellowship program.

### **About The Collective Education Fund**

The Collective Education Fund, via their Vote To Live program, is taking a two-pronged approach to engaging Black voters on the importance of civic engagement: first through innovative and distributed voter registration initiatives and through an extensive voter education effort. By coupling voter registration and voter education activities, The Collective Education Fund aims to inform the Black community of the importance of their vote, how to protect and cast their ballot under changing legal landscapes, and how voting fits into a broader political and civic engagement strategy to build power for our communities.