

## **Institute for Broadening Participation Awarded 2.4 Million Dollars from NASA**

Dr. Ashanti Johnson announced that the Institute for Broadening Participation (IBP), a national non-profit organization founded in Maine was awarded a 2.4 million dollar grant from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) on April 2, 2010 to initiate a project “Building the STEM Workforce: Pathways for Recruitment, Retention, and Career Development”.

Dr. Johnson is the Executive Director of IBP. She recently received the Presidential Mentoring Award for Science and Technology from President Obama. She was also honored as one of “TheGrio’s 100: History Makers the Making” in early February.

Dr. Johnson noted that the goal of the new NASA supported program is to strengthen the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, & Mathematics) workforce and increase the number of students successfully pursuing degrees in the sciences. IBP will lead a series of recruitment and retention efforts with a national network of colleges and universities and with three additional organizations who received similar awards. Dr. Johnson will direct the program.

The Institute for Broadening Participation, a non-profit organization, was founded by a small group in Maine to design and implement strategies to increase access to Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) education and careers for diverse underrepresented groups. IBP has developed a successful model for supporting national networks focused on increasing the number of underrepresented individuals in STEM fields. IBP’s model was initially designed in collaboration with the National Science Foundation’s (NSF) Integrative Graduate Education and Research Traineeship (IGERT) program. IBP has assisted over 200 education programs in developing and implementing strategies to increase their recruitment and retention of URM students. IBP also works with the NSF’s Alliances for Graduate Education and the Professoriate (AGEP) program, is home for the MS PHD’S Earth System Science student mentoring program, and provides web and data management assistance to the National Alliance for Doctoral Studies in Mathematics and the Maine STEM Collaborative. IBP’s central offices are in Damariscotta, Maine and Cedar Hill, Texas. Staff members are located in Florida, Maine, New Hampshire, Tennessee and Texas. Regional specialists for the program are in California, Colorado, Florida, Maryland, New York, and Oregon. For more information about IBP, please view its website at [www.pathwaystoscience.org](http://www.pathwaystoscience.org).



Dr. Ashanti Johnson,  
IBP Executive Director