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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**ExxonMobil, National Society of Black Engineers Honor Universities
for Minority Retention Efforts**

Inaugural Impact Award recognizes programs at Purdue, Virginia Tech and University of Texas

- **Award honors universities for achievement in retention of under-represented minority engineering students**
- **Universities receive \$10,000 grant for outstanding programs**
- **ExxonMobil grant to National Society of Black Engineers to administer Impact award**

IRVING, Texas--([BUSINESSWIRE](#))—[Exxon Mobil Corporation](#) and the [National Society of Black Engineers](#) (NSBE) today announced the inaugural winners of the Impact Award, a recognition that honors universities for retaining under-represented minority students enrolled in engineering programs on their campuses.

[Purdue University](#), [Virginia Tech](#) and the [University of Texas at Austin](#) will each receive a \$10,000 award from ExxonMobil and NSBE to bolster their efforts. All the recipients will be recognized at an event held at the Carnegie Institution for Science in Washington, DC.

“As a company built on technology, ExxonMobil clearly understands the importance of supporting the next generation of scientists and engineers,” said Suzanne McCarron, general manger, public and government affairs, Exxon Mobil Corporation. “ExxonMobil and NSBE have created the Impact Award to highlight retention models that are keeping under-represented students in science, technology, engineering or mathematics (STEM) fields and then sharing those best practices with other universities.”

The Impact Award was created by ExxonMobil and NSBE in recognition that under-represented minorities together make up just 10 percent of Americans working in the science and engineering field. This number would need to triple to match the share of minorities in the U.S. population. Underlining the need for retention is the fact that about 60% of African Americans who start STEM degrees change their major.

“NSBE is proud to partner with ExxonMobil to create this award,” said Dr. Carl B. Mack, executive director of NSBE. “Our organization is dedicated to increasing the ranks of minorities in engineering, and we are excited to highlight programs that are helping address the critical issue of retention.”

The Impact Award recognizes collegiate programs that are not only making significant inroads in retaining minority students to engineering-related programs, but also have the ability to easily replicate the programs at other universities:

- **Purdue University** - Program focuses on outreach, recruitment and retention efforts and offers support to entering freshmen as well as returning engineering students. The university has also implemented an Academic Boot Camp, which is geared toward helping students adjust to differences between high school and college and offering assistance with first-year engineering courses.

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- **Virginia Tech** - Center for Enhancement of Engineering Diversity employs four full-time staff members and five graduate assistants, all dedicated to supporting and mentoring minority engineering students.
- **University of Texas at Austin** - Equal Opportunity in Engineering initiative focuses on academic success and personal growth and includes First Year Interest Groups, or FIGs, that serve to assist students in building support networks with other students and faculty members. FIG cohorts also share a class schedule and weekly seminars to encourage relationship building among peers.

ExxonMobil develops and supports other programs that encourage students to develop a keen interest in STEM careers, specifically promoting the involvement of women and minorities in these industries, as well as initiatives to improve effectiveness of teachers. ExxonMobil is a founding sponsor of the *National Math and Science Initiative* (NMSI) and committed \$125 million to support it. NMSI was launched to improve math and science education by preparing talented students and teachers. ExxonMobil also supports ExxonMobil Bernard Harris Summer Science Camps, Mickelson ExxonMobil Teachers Academy and Science Ambassadors.

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About Exxon Mobil Corporation

ExxonMobil is the world's largest publicly traded international oil and gas company, providing energy that helps underpin growing economies and improve living standards around the world. ExxonMobil also engages in a range of philanthropic activities that advance education, health and science in the communities where ExxonMobil has significant operations. In the United States, ExxonMobil supports initiatives to improve math and science education at the K-12 and higher education levels. Globally, ExxonMobil provides funding to improve basic education, promote women as catalysts for economic development, and combat malaria and other infectious diseases in developing countries. In 2010, together with its employees and retirees, Exxon Mobil Corporation (NYSE:XOM), its divisions and affiliates, and ExxonMobil Foundation provided \$237 million in contributions worldwide, of which \$110 million was dedicated to education. Additional information on ExxonMobil's community partnerships and contributions programs is available at www.exxonmobil.com/community.

About NSBE

The National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE), with more than 35,700 members, is one of the largest student-governed organizations in the country. Founded in 1975, NSBE now includes more than 394 College, Pre-College, and Technical Professional/Alumni chapters in the United States and abroad. NSBE's mission is "to increase the number of culturally responsible black engineers who excel academically, succeed professionally and positively impact the community."