

Project Pipeline Repair attends the 2019 Men of Color National Summit *Building Bridges to Success for African-American and Hispanic Males*

South Carolina is one of only four states to participate in [Project Pipeline Repair](#) (PPR), an initiative of the State Higher Education Executive Officers Association (SHEEO) utilizing collaborative partnerships with Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) and state higher education agencies to cultivate a highly qualified pool of minority male teachers, and change the “teaching narrative” and critical role of minority males, through targeted and early recruitment. Claflin University is the partnering HBCU in South Carolina. State project leads from all participating states are responsible with identifying exposure opportunities and supporting related programmatic activities.



Pictured Left to Right: Dr. Regine Rucker (CHE), Tyrese Owens (PPR Mentor), Jamario James (PPR student), Solomon Garvin (PPR Student), Christeon Burkett (PPR Student), Nathaniel Bookman (PPR Mentor), and Dr. Dwight Varnum (Claflin Univ.).

CHE and Claflin co-sponsored PPR students from Hunter-Kinard-Tyler High School to attend the two-day Men of Color National Summit in April 2019. The conference, hosted by Clemson University in Greenville, SC, focused on issues (career and professional development, entrepreneurship, masculinity/personal identity, and social/community engagement) to close the achievement gap for African American and Hispanic males, emphasizing the importance of education, best practices and choices to increase high school and college graduation rates.

Keynote speakers included Geoffrey Canada, Dr. Freeman Hrabowski, Dr. Pedro Noguera, and Melissa Harris-Perry.

A Pre-Summit Institute, hosted by Clemson’s Call Me Mister® program and Director, Dr. Roy Jones, highlighted the needs and challenges faced by African-American and Hispanic youth. Call Me Mister® Alumnae and African-American male educators spoke on a range of topics, including the impact of hidden messages in hip-hop music, assumptions of deviancy, and STEM achievement among minority male students.



Pictured Left to Right: Hayward Jean (Principal, Mellichamp Elem.), Dr. Regine Rucker (CHE), Dr. Rashaad Anderson (Asst. Professor, SCSU), Dr. Roy Jones (Call Me Mister®), and Dr. H. Justin Ballenger (Asst., Professor, Mercer Univ.).



Pictured Left to Right: Dr. Regine Rucker (CHE), Sheshuana Davis (SC Department of Employment and Workforce), and Dr. Jennifer Almeda (CHE).