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(April 11, 2008 – New Orleans)

**Millions of Federal Dollars Available For Minority Institutions and
Small Businesses
To Learn More Plan on Attending
The 4th National Minority Serving Institutions Research Partnership
Conference**

May 12-15, 2008 in New Orleans, LA Hosted by Dillard University

(New Orleans – April 11, 2008) – Millions of federal dollars are available for minority institutions and small businesses interested in research and acquiring lucrative governmental contracts. Hundreds from Historically Black Colleges, Tribal Colleges/Universities, Hispanic Serving Institutions as well as major research universities will share this information at the 4th National Minority Serving Institutions Research Partnership (MSIRP) Conference. Dillard University will host the three-day event in New Orleans – May 12-15, 2008. Representatives of minority serving institutions from across the country will exchange ideas and strategically plan for future research with partners from funding agencies, small businesses, and major corporations.

“This conference provides an excellent venue and multiple opportunities for minority institutions take full advantage of major research and other contracting solicitations with the federal agencies and their prime contractors. The amount that minority institutions receive annually from government contracts hovers around one percent annually – a percentage which both government agencies and their primes have expressed commitment to increase,” said Theodore Callier, conference coordinator and Dillard University Assistant Vice President of Sponsored Programs.

The conference theme is “Broadening the Scope: Advancing the Research Agenda at Minority Institutions. “Though the economy is teetering on a recession, there remains hundreds of millions of contracting and research dollars available. There is a clear opportunity to ‘broaden the scope’ of

participation and an optimal time to compete and secure significant federal research and contracting dollars,” Callier said.

The conference agenda specifically targets faculty/researchers, research administrators, small businesses, corporations and students. Below is a brief synopsis for attendees:

Government Prime Contractors Participating

Aerojet ♦ ATK Launch Systems ♦ BAE Systems ♦ Boeing Company ♦ EG&G ♦ ITT Corporation ♦ Jacobs Engineering ♦ Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Laboratory ♦ Lockheed Martin ♦ Northrop Grumman ♦ Pratt & Whitney ♦ Rocketdyne ♦ Raytheon ♦ SAIC ♦ Teledyne Brown Engineering ♦ United Space Alliance.

Government Agencies Participating

U.S. EPA ♦ U.S. Department of Defense ♦ NASA ♦ U.S. Department of the Interior ♦ U.S. Department of Education ♦ U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development ♦ Air Force Research Laboratory

Faculty/Researchers

Participate in agency-specific Technical Assistance Workshops

Faculty Research Experience

Hear future research agendas from federal agencies and corporations

Learn about grant and contract opportunities

Identify research collaboration opportunities via networking

Meet/discuss one-on-one with program officers and agency representatives

Research Administrators

Learn about intellectual property and technology transfer issues

Attend grant and contract policy and policy development sessions

Create opportunities for institutional partnerships and collaborations

Small Businesses

Investigation R&D and service procurement opportunities

Share best practices and expand networking opportunities

Showcase products and services

Participate in Government / Prime Contractors' Matchmaking Forum

Students

Participate in National Research Competition

Become acquainted with federal and corporate research opportunities

Explore federal and corporate employment opportunities

Share entrepreneurship experiences

For more information please contact:

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Conference Website: www.msirp2008.com

Dillard University, a Historically Black College and University (HBCU), has been a cornerstone of educational excellence and a critical part of the New Orleans community since 1869. Dillard University offers a quality, four-year, comprehensive undergraduate program, awarding degrees in Business, Humanities, Educational & Psychological Studies, Natural Sciences & Public Health, Social Sciences, and Nursing. Dillard students represent 29 states and several foreign countries.