Fellow Education Advocate,

On behalf of the White House Initiative on Educational Excellence for African Americans (the Initiative) and Johnson Publishing Company, I invite you to participate in a national dialogue designed to save our sons and contribute to closing the achievement gap for African American students throughout the country.

The groundbreaking “Saving Our Sons” series published by Ebony Magazine has captured the attention of the African American community. The series, and related conversations about the challenges and opportunities facing Black boys, provides us with an opportunity to engage and equip students and educators, families, communities and caring adults with the information and resources needed to support the learning and development of African American boys and men.

To ensure members of our community have the information and resources needed to support our sons, the White House Initiative on Educational Excellence for African Americans and Johnson Publishing Company will host regional community engagement forums designed to ensure all caring adults have the information and support needed to enhance African American educational excellence.

We invite you to participate in the first of these forums, which will be hosted at Morehouse College in Atlanta, Georgia on March 28-29, 2014. The theme of this session will be “Setting the Stage: Faith, Family and Fatherhood. We will address socio-cultural challenges that African American children face and know that your perspective and experience will add significant value to the discussion.

Specifically, we invite you to participate on the following panel: “Empowering Parents, Guardians and Caring Adults to Support African American Educational Excellence” on Saturday, March 29, 2014 at 3:45 pm.

This panel will equip parents, grandparents, guardians and caring adults with the information and resources needed to support and advocate for African American students in the Atlanta Metropolitan area. Panelists will provide tips for building meaningful relationships with educators and school leaders.
We thank you in advance for considering this humble request to contribute to Saving Our Sons. Please confirm your participation no later than Monday, March 17, 2014. Should you have any questions or need any additional information to reach a favorable decision, please do not hesitate to contact Kimberly Watkins-Foote at Kimberly.Watkins-Foote@ed.gov or at 202.260.8197.

Sincerely,

David J. Johns
Executive Director,
White House Initiative on Educational Excellence for African Americans