

# TOURO COLLEGE

*Lander Center for Educational Research*

*Contact: Barbara Franklin*

*212-463-0400 x5530*

[Barbara.franklin@touro.edu](mailto:Barbara.franklin@touro.edu)

**For Immediate Release**

## **TOURO COLLEGE'S LANDER CENTER FOR EDUCATIONAL RESEARCH RECEIVES NEARLY \$1.9 MILLION IN FEDERAL AID TO OPERATE EQUITY ASSISTANCE CENTER (EAC)**

**Center to Assist States, School Districts and Public Schools in Providing Equal Opportunity to Students**

**New York, N.Y., October 24, 2011** -Touro College's [Lander Center for Educational Research](#), located at its Graduate School of Education, has been awarded a three-year grant from the U.S. Department of Education to operate one of 10 national Equity Assistance Centers (EAC) that provide assistance to states, school districts, and public schools on issues of race, gender and national origin.

The 10 Centers, funded under Title IV of the 1964 Civil Rights Act, are designed to provide equal opportunity for achievement to all students. In 2008, the Lander Center received \$1.9 million to establish an EAC at Touro to service Region II, which includes New York, New Jersey, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. Under the previous grant, the EAC served more than 3,000 teachers and administrators during the three-year life of the grant.

"We are extremely pleased that Touro has been awarded this grant for another three years," said Dr. LaMar P. Miller, dean of Touro's Graduate School of Education and principal investigator for the grant. "By continuing to operate Region II's EAC, the Lander Center for Educational Research will be able to maximize its effectiveness in improving equity within the State and local educational systems."

Dr. Miller said the EAC will assist state departments of education and school districts in improving teacher quality; increase their capacity to ensure that students graduate high school college or career ready; and support leaders to more effectively address student performance.

Other objectives include helping clients:

- More effectively identify and address students' unique learning needs;
- Develop strategies and plans for distributing effective teachers and leaders, particularly in high-poverty, low-performing schools;

- Improve school engagement and create environments that are responsive to cultural differences;
- Improve school safety, and awareness and understanding of bullying and harassment;
- Increase access to science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) education and related areas, for minorities, women, English learners and individuals with disabilities; and
- Build capacity to address equity issues affecting student performance, especially in high-poverty, low-performing schools.

Individuals representing school districts, state educational departments and other state or local educational agencies interested in obtaining services may contact Dr. Velma L. Cobb, director of the EAC and associate professor at Touro's Graduate School of Education, at (212) 463-0400 ext. 5386, or write to Dr. Cobb at Equity Assistance Center, Touro College, 43 West 23rd Street, 8th floor, New York, NY 10010.

Although housed at Touro College, the EAC works in collaboration with Learning Innovations at WestEd (LI), located in Woburn, MA. Learning Innovations improves education for children by strengthening adult learning and promoting systemic improvement at the state, district, and school levels. LI provides professional development, research, and evaluation that bolster teacher quality and leadership, address needs of English learners and students with disabilities, and improve learning in science, math, and other areas.

The Lander Center for Educational Research at Touro College was established in 2005 as a unit of Touro College's School of Education. The Center works closely with districts and schools in their efforts to promote student achievement, school leadership, team-building capacity, teacher quality, school reform strategies, and the overall professional development of district and school personnel. The Lander Center also plays an important role in Touro's commitment to serving as a major research institution of higher education and assisting the underserved.

#### *About the Touro College and University System*

*Touro is a system of Jewish-sponsored non-profit institutions of higher and professional education. Touro College was chartered in 1970 primarily to enrich the Jewish heritage, and to serve the larger American community. Approximately 19,000 students are currently enrolled in its various schools and divisions. Touro College has branch campuses, locations and instructional sites in the New York area, as well as branch campuses and programs in Berlin, Jerusalem, Moscow, Paris, and Florida. Touro University California and its Nevada branch campus, as well as Touro College Los Angeles and Touro University Worldwide, are separately accredited institutions within the Touro College and University System. For further information on Touro College, please go to: <http://www.touro.edu/media/>.*