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City Tech Physics Professor Among Recipients of Presidential Award for Mentoring

Brooklyn, NY–June 26, 2018–Dr. Reginald Blake, a Professor of Physics at City Tech, is among the 41 individuals receiving a Presidential Award for Excellence in Science, Mathematics and Engineering Mentoring (PAESMEM) at a White House ceremony today.

According to the National Science Foundation (NSF), which administers the PAESMEM program on behalf of the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy, this award is the highest honor bestowed upon mentors who work to expand talent in the science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) fields. The PAESMEM recipients are nominated by colleagues, administrators and students for their tireless dedication to mentoring students from kindergarten to collegiate levels, often from underrepresented groups.

City Tech President Russell K. Hotzler says, “For the past thirteen years, Dr. Blake has directed City Tech’s STEM-designated Black Male Initiative program. Due to the national success of the program, City Tech has become an IHEP Model Replication Institution. We are gratified by the recognition that the program has received and grateful to Professor Blake for his service to this college and its students.” For the past ten years, Blake has also been the Principal Investigator (PI) or co-PI for numerous major STEM initiatives for the NSF, NASA, NOAA, and DoD. Dr. Blake has personally mentored and advised well over 1,000 high school, undergraduate, and graduate students, earning him citations from the NYC Committee on Higher Education for his outstanding contribution to STEM education in 2009 and 2015.

Dr. Blake earned a bachelor’s and master’s degree from City College-CUNY, as well as a PhD from the CUNY Graduate Center, having done his dissertation research at Columbia University’s NASA Goddard Institute for Space Studies (NASA GISS).

Dr. Blake’s professional and academic affiliations are broad and impressive: He is an active member of the Center for Climate Systems Research of the Earth Institute at Columbia University/NASA GISS and a member of the Earth Institute’s Urban Climate Change Research Network. He is a scientist with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration’s Cooperative Remote Sensing Science and Technology Center (NOAA-CREST) and its associated CUNY CREST Institute. His research there involves urban climate, the application of satellite and ground-based remote sensing to the study of hydro-climate, hydrology, hurricanes, and air pollution.

As a noted climate scientist, in 2008, Dr. Blake was asked to serve on Mayor Bloomberg's New York City Panel on Climate Change (NPCC), the primary scientific body that advises and guides New York City's mayor on climate change adaptation, mitigation, and resilience building initiatives. Dr. Blake continues to serve on this critical and elite panel of climate change experts under the leadership of Mayor Bill de Blasio.

Internationally, Dr. Blake serves as the lead climate scientist for the U.S. Agency for International Development and the International City/Council Management Association's CityLinks climate program for Jamaica in his hometown of Portmore. He is also a lead climate scientist for the international arm of the Earth Institute at Columbia University and its Urban Climate Change Research Network.

Nationally, Dr. Blake serves as co-chair of the American Meteorological Society's (AMS) committee for the Symposium on Education, and by virtue of his scholarship and expertise, he has served the National Science Foundation (NSF), the Institute for Higher Education Policy (IHEP), Project Kaleidoscope, and the Climate and Urban Systems Partnership.

At City Tech, Dr. Blake is a faculty member in the Physics Department, serving as chair of the Undergraduate Research Committee and as a member of the Interdisciplinary, the Sustainability, and the Study Abroad committees. In addition, Dr. Blake serves on the advisory board of City Tech's Brooklyn Waterfront Research Center, and is the director of City Tech's Center for Remote Sensing and Earth System Sciences. In March 2016, he was named City Tech's 2016-2017 Scholar on Campus for reconceptualizing scholarship and seamlessly integrating intellectual merit with broader impacts for City Tech, for the City of New York, and for the global climate science community.

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About City Tech (New York City College of Technology) City Tech, of The City University of New York, is the largest four-year public college of technology in the Northeast and a national model for technological education. City Tech has an enrollment of more than 17,000 students in 29 baccalaureate and 27 associate degree programs and was recently ranked ninth among more than 2,000 U.S. institutions in overall economic mobility for its students (www.equality-of-opportunity.org). For more information, visit www.citytech.cuny.edu.

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Photo: Dr. Reginald Blake

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