



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Contact: Tamara Young  
UniWorld Group  
212.219.7224  
[Tamara.Young@uwgny.com](mailto:Tamara.Young@uwgny.com)

Tyrha M. Lindsey  
UniWorld Group  
212.219.7145  
[Tyrha.Lindsey@uwgny.com](mailto:Tyrha.Lindsey@uwgny.com)

**THE HOME DEPOT® OFFERS HISTORICALLY BLACK COLLEGES AND  
UNIVERSITIES THE OPPORTUNITY TO “RETOOL YOUR SCHOOL”  
WITH THEIR SECOND ANNUAL GRANT PROGRAM**

*HOME IMPROVEMENT GRANT ENCOURAGES ALUMNI, FAMILY AND FRIENDS TO VOTE FOR  
THEIR FAVORITE HBCU AS SCHOOLS COMPETE FOR \$150,000 IN GRANTS FOR  
SUSTAINABLE CAMPUS AND FACILITY UPGRADES*

**New York, NY– February 23, 2011** –The Home Depot® continues its long-standing support of diverse communities with the second year of its highly successful “Retool Your School” grant program. Designed to reinvigorate Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) nationwide through evergreen campus improvement efforts, this year’s program provides HBCUs with the opportunity to win \$150,000 in grants to be awarded as one \$50,000 Grand Prize major grant and ten \$10,000 minor grant winners. Online voting will take place from March 1 – April 22, 2011.

“We were extremely pleased with the response from schools and the community as a whole to last year’s “Retool Your School” program. These institutions really showed us their school spirit and pride with the overwhelming amount of online votes we received,” said Trish Mueller, senior vice president and chief marketing officer, The Home Depot®. “This year, we look forward to reviewing the unique ideas and proposals that each school develops as we provide grants for a variety of practical and eco-friendly projects.”

During the online voting period, consumers will be able to view descriptions of major and minor projects and can cast one vote per day for their favorite HBCU. Following the online vote, a panel of distinguished judges will also evaluate each school’s proposal. Projects will be judged based on votes posted to the website – [www.retoolyourschool.com](http://www.retoolyourschool.com), as well as, relevance of the proposal requirements as listed on the website and application. Entrants must highlight how each project will make a lasting, positive impact on its campus. Special attention will be given to schools that pitch eco-friendly tasks. Judges will also take into consideration the depth of each proposal and the school’s ability to execute the project within the budget of \$50,000 (major) or \$10,000 (minor), as applicable. The winning schools will be determined based on a combination of online votes and the judge’s evaluations. The Home Depot® will announce the top finalists on May 16, 2011.

As a company that prides itself on making a positive impact on the environment, The Home Depot® “Retool Your School” program judges will provide special consideration to schools who plan to use sustainable, eco-friendly and energy-saving resources, including, but not limited to, energy-efficient lighting and windows, and water-saving faucets and toilets, etc. With the goal of issuing grants for projects that have a lasting impact, last year The Home Depot® awarded Elizabeth City State University with the Grand Prize of \$50,000. The school will use the funds to build the first-ever home baseball field in the school’s 119-year history.

-more-

“Elizabeth City State University is pleased and proud to be the recipient of the 2010 “Retool Your School” grant. Because of this award, we are constructing the first ever baseball field on our campus which will now allow our team to compete in front of a home crowd, provide our students and the local community an opportunity to enjoy ECSU baseball, and help enhance the local economy by bringing opposing teams and their fans to Elizabeth City,” stated Dr. Willie J. Gilchrist, chancellor, Elizabeth City State University. “I commend The Home Depot® for creating a grant program that targets Historically Black Colleges and Universities, particularly during this challenging economic time. The program is helping to build the sustainability movement that has become a major focus of many HBCUs.”

The ten \$10,000 minor grant winners for the 2010 inaugural program included-Bluefield State College, Bluefield, WV; Fisk University, Nashville, TN; Florida A&M University, Tallahassee, FL; Hampton University, Hampton, VA; Howard University, Washington, DC; Mississippi Valley State University, Meridian, MS; Morgan State University, Baltimore, MD; Tuskegee University, Tuskegee, AL; Virginia Union University, Richmond, VA; and Wilberforce University, Wilberforce, OH.

In 2010, minor grants went to a variety of sustainable efforts as several winning projects provided options that will lessen their campus’s carbon footprint. For example, Florida A&M University (FAMU) installed a rainwater collection system. The FAMU Student Government Association and the FAMU Green Coalition joined forces with the FAMU Department of Environmental Health & Safety to pioneer a unique and environmentally friendly improvement project. The system will reduce total water usage and recycle rainwater while keeping FAMU’s new landscaping looking healthy.

“Last year, I had an enjoyable experience picking the colleges, but what I learned the most is where people’s priorities are.” shared Jasmine Guy, renowned Actress and 2010 “Retool Your School” National Judge. “I’m proud that The Home Depot® took the time to really analyze each proposal, so that we knew we were giving substantive donations to the schools that would last longer than something that just looks good.”

“We are excited to enter into the second year of the ‘Retool Your School’ program. We wanted to find a way to connect with our multicultural customers and ‘Retool your School’ has truly achieved this for us. “This program evokes school spirit while also helping to secure grants for renovations that last for years to come, said Melissa Brown, manager of multicultural marketing, The Home Depot®.

The “Retool Your School” program is a unique competition that extends to alumni, family and friends, as well as students to vote for their favorite HBCU. “Retool Your School” radio spots will run nationally on *The Tom Joyner Morning Show*. A digital campaign will also run on popular sites, including BlackPlanet.com, AlumniRoundup.com and many more.

**For more information on The Home Depot® “Retool Your School” grant program or to register online for “Retool Your School” program updates, visit [www.retoolyourschool.com](http://www.retoolyourschool.com).**

Online voting will begin March 1, 2011 at 12:00 am (midnight) EST and end April 22, 2011 at 11:59 pm EST.

Visitors to the site will have an opportunity to vote for their favorite HBCU.

### **About The Home Depot®**

The Home Depot® is the world's largest home improvement specialty retailer, with 2,245 retail stores in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, 10 Canadian provinces, Mexico and China. In fiscal 2008, The Home Depot® had sales of \$71.3 billion and earnings from continuing operations of \$2.3 billion. The Company employs more than 300,000 associates. The Home Depot's® stock is traded on the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE: HD) and is included in the Dow Jones industrial average and Standard & Poor's 500 index.

###