National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE), Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)
Funding Request for the 35th Annual National Convention in Las Vegas, NV

The purpose of this proposal is to request funding for the MIT Chapter of the National Society of Black Engineers in preparation for 35th Annual National Convention to be held in Las Vegas, NV.

Overview of the Organization:
The National Society of Black Engineers was founded in 1975 as a nonprofit organization with a mission to increase the number of culturally responsible Black engineers, who excel academically, succeed professionally, and positively impact the community.

For years the Massachusetts Institute of Technology Chapter of NSBE has been at the forefront of the national society. We are home to many "firsts" within the society: the NSBE-MIT hosted the first Region I conference, was among the first to publish a successful newsletter and resume book, was one of the thirty two schools in attendance at the first national convention, and was the first to chair Region I (Upstate & Metro New York, New Jersey, Canada, and New England).

We have also chaired the national society and have won many awards including, but not limited to, Chapter of the Year, Academic Tech Bowl winners, and Member of the Month. The NSBE-MIT members are very proud of their achievements, which include:

- 2005 Regional Academic Tech Bowl Champions
- 2005 International Visionary Award Recipient
- 2006 Regional Academic Tech Bowl Champions
- 2007 National Academic Tech Bowl Champions
- 2007 Regional Chapter of the Year
- 2008 Boeing Flight Competition Winners
- 2008 National Academic Tech Bowl Champions

As you can see the NSBE-MIT chapter has been recognized for outstanding achievement for four consecutive years. With typically 100+ members, we organize and sponsor over twenty activities throughout the academic year designed to meet the cultural and professional needs of our members, as well as those of the Black and minority population of the greater Boston area.

NSBE is under section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Service Code; therefore, all contributions are tax deductible.
Overview of the National Convention:

This year marks the 35th Annual National Convention to be held in Las Vegas, Nevada in March of 2009. The 4-day conference is the biggest event the society holds and our chapter has been represented at every one since the founding of the society in 1975. The Convention, usually attended by upwards of 10,000 people, offers opportunities for students to gain professional development through workshops, make contacts with representatives from corporations and universities, speak to government and industry representatives concerning scholarships and internships, celebrate the achievements and excellence of the Black community, and contribute to the organizational development of NSBE. This year’s theme is Expanding Creativity to Achieve Exponential Growth.

The National Convention’s mission is to bring together members of the society from across the world to network and develop professional ties. At this conference, a new national executive board is also decided giving our chapter members the chance, not only to run, but also to see the leadership of other chapter, zone, and regional boards as well as the national board.

At the Convention, our members get involved in professional and leadership workshops, the 2-day career fair with opportunities for internships, a college fair for our high school chapter members, a graduate school fair for those interested in pursuing higher degrees, and a host of other events as mentioned above. Additionally, our NSBE chapter works for the college and graduate school fair booths as MIT student representatives. In attending this Convention, students also have the opportunity to meet, not only their peers, but company representatives and NSBE alumni members.

As a chapter, in 2007, our Academic Tech Bowl (ATB) team went all the way to Nationals and won the ATB for the first time in several years. The team triumphed throughout the Zone and Regional levels to compete in the ATB Competition on the national level. The competition covers topics on the Fundamentals of Engineering Exam, NSBE facts, and African-American Scientists and Inventors’ history. Last year, our chapter once again claimed the title of ATB champions and we hope to do the same this year.
Summary of the 2008 NSBE National Convention:

Purpose: To provide a forum for networking and professional development for MIT students of African diasporic heritage (African-American, African, Afro-Caribbean) through a 4-day conference involving a variety of workshops, speakers, fairs (career, college, and graduate), and competitions.


Location: Las Vegas Convention Center in Las Vegas, Nevada

Agenda: Wednesday: Leave Boston: Early Morning
Arrive in Las Vegas: Mid-Evening

Thursday: Opening Session: 5-7 p.m.
Development Workshops

Friday: Workshops & Career Fair (all day)

Saturday: Workshops, Academic Tech Bowl Competition,
Boeing Flight Competition, College Fair & Career Fair

Sunday: Depart Las Vegas: Early Morning

Budget: Overall (Anticipated Attendees: 28 MIT, 6 PCI Students, 1 Chaperone):

Travel: Shuttle: $140.00/person $4,900*
Airfare: $475.25/person $16,633.75

Hotel: $66.69/night/room (9 rooms) $2,400.84

Registration: $140/person $4,900*

Total Cost for Convention: $28,834.59
*These costs will not be covered by NSBE-MIT

Total Cost for NSBE-MIT: $19,034.59

Coordinator Information: Jarrell Johnson (Chair)
708-228-3413
Email: jdjohnson@mit.edu
Current Members Attending:
Jarrell Johnson    Jason Conage-Pough
Lauren Simmons    Dorothy Brown
Willie Mae Reese    Brittany Jones
Corey Harris    Kamil Gedeon
Dwayne Reeves    Cameron Allen
William Chin    David Hill
Jason Forte    Jacob Wamala
Ryan Bonaparte    Akara Ambak
Shannon Roberts    Nathaniel Forbes
Dylon Rockwell    Rachael Holmes
Cynthia Bouldrick    Tamika Tannis
Quinnton Harris    Marvin Arnold
Michael Thompson    Adam Smith
Anrae Jamon Motes    Wayne Hollman

Current Summary of the Contributions:
Department of Aeronautics & Astronautics    $500.00  (Anticipated)
Department of Biology      $500.00
Department of Material Science     $850.00
Undergraduate Advising and Academic Programming  $1,000.00
Office of Minority Education      $500.00
Office of the Provost    $1,500.00  (Committed)
D.E.Shaw Corporation    $2,000.00
McKinsey & Company      $500.00
Qualcomm Technologies     $5,000.00
Xerox Corporation    $1,500.00  (Committed)
FinBoard    $1,670.00

Total Received, Committed and Anticipated:    $15,520
Statement of Purpose:
The Massachusetts Institute of Technology Chapter of the National Society of Black Engineers would like to request your support concerning sponsorship of active, excelling minority students to the 35th Annual National Convention to be held in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Last year, our chapter sponsored forty-seven students to attend the 34th Annual NSBE National Convention held in Orlando, Florida. With the assistance of several Corporate Sponsors and MIT Academic Departments and Offices, our chapter was capable of obtaining approximately thirty-seven thousand dollars which provided a means of transportation and housing for the convention. Such contributions made it possible for our members to maintain the tradition of NSBE-MIT and continue to set the standards for excellence among the society.

For many years now, our chapter has aimed to extend financial support to those members who have actively participated in our academic excellence and community service programs. With the use of a sponsorship application, we implement a point system that makes it possible for our chapter to identify and reward those members who have fulfilled the NSBE-MIT mission to excel academically, succeed professionally, and positively impact the community.

The primary purpose of this sponsorship application is to formally decide which members will receive sponsorship from NSBE-MIT. The application also allows Corporate Sponsors to get a first glance at the resumes of members and allows MIT Academic Departments to specify the students whom they believe deserve should be allowed to attend the Convention on behalf of their contribution. This year, NSBE-MIT endeavored to extend sponsorship to forty collegiate members and ten pre-collegiate members; however, with recent budget cuts we have limited the attendance to twenty-eight members and six pre-collegiate members. Even still, our chapter would really like to continue to enable our membership to develop themselves as leaders through workshops, competitions, and networking with other society members. All will have the opportunity for self-development.

Please share in our chapter’s enthusiasm and help us accomplish our goals. If you have any questions, you can reach our chapter’s Executive Board by e-mail at nsbe-eboard@mit.edu. Please feel free to visit our website (http://web.mit.edu/nsbe/www) for more information about our chapter. Thank you for your time and consideration. We look forward to hearing from you soon.

Yours Truly,

Jarrell D. Johnson, ’09
Chairman, National Society of Black Engineers
Massachusetts Institute of Technology Chapter