



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE September 2, 2014

## **“ENERGIZE CHARLOTTE” A JOB READINESS SUMMIT FOR JOBS IN THE OIL, GAS AND ENERGY INDUSTRY**

*Hosted by the Charlotte Senator Joel Ford and Representative Rodney Moore  
Presented by the American Association of Blacks in Energy and Hispanics in Energy*

**(September 2, 2014)** Political powerhouses Senator Joel D. M. Ford, and Representative Rodney W. Moore, from the North Carolina General Assembly, will serve as hosts of the Energizing: Charlotte, A Community Conversation About Energy, Opportunity, and Workforce Readiness. The event is presented by the American Association of Blacks in Energy (AABE) in partnership with Hispanics in Energy (HIE), and takes place Thursday, September 18, 2014 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the NASCAR Hall of Fame Museum.

The event is part of an eight-city tour highlighted in a groundbreaking report commissioned by the American Petroleum Institute (API). The report revealed a massive increase in the number of jobs for minorities and women in the oil and gas and energy industry. According to API, an estimated 1.3 million new jobs will be created in the energy sector with 34% of jobs going to minorities and women.

“Charlotte is now the 16<sup>th</sup> largest city in the country with an African-American population of 35% and a Hispanic population that has now exceeded 13%,” said Paula Jackson, President and CEO of the American Association of Blacks in Energy. “Considering Charlotte’s thriving minority population, our organizations deemed it critically important to include the great city of Charlotte on our tour. We look forward to engaging the leaders of Charlotte in an effort to prepare the next generation of energy professionals.”

AABE and HIE along with many partners are leading the conversation on how women and minorities can prepare for jobs in energy by inviting community stakeholders to open forums on September 18<sup>th</sup> to spark thought provoking conversation on the road ahead. Therefore, industry business leaders, labor representatives, educators, elected officials, workforce investment groups, community organizations and faith-based leaders are all invited to attend the free event.

**WHO:** American Assoc. of Blacks in Energy (AABE) & Hispanics in Energy (HIE)  
**WHAT:** “Energize Charlotte: A Community Conversation About Energy, Opportunity, and Workforce Readiness”  
**WHEN:** Thursday September 18, 2014 10 a.m.- 2 p.m.  
**WHERE:** NASCAR Hall of Fame Museum - 400 E Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. Charlotte, NC 28202

For information on the API survey and to register for the free event, please visit – <http://aabe-hieenergize.com/>. Follow the conversation on Twitter at @\_AABE and live during each event using hash tag, #AskAABE, #EnergizeCharlotte or #Energizing.

**MEDIA CONTACT:** Alice Gordon, Skye Connect, Inc. 201-785-7593 - agordon@skyeconnect.com