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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Xavier University of Louisiana Partners with Argonne National Laboratory (U.S. Department of Energy) Towards Advancing Energy Storage and a Cleaner Future

New Orleans Xavier University of Louisiana, with its long history of supporting environmental and social justice initiatives to create impactful change, has announced that it is one of fifteen partners in collaboration with The Energy Storage Research Alliance (ESRA). ESRA is a United States Department of Energy (DOE) energy innovation hub, uniting nearly 50 world-class researchers and leading experts from three national laboratories and 12 universities to expedite technology commercialization for cutting-edge energy storage solutions. Each institution brings unique perspectives that will accelerate ESRA's ability to impact the global energy storage landscape. As a Historically Black College and University (HBCU), Xavier will add a breadth of knowledge that expands ESRA's materials design and analysis capabilities.

Dr. Lamartine Meda, Bellsouth endowed professor of chemistry and material science and Xavier's Director of the Materials and Interfaces Center for High Energy Storage and Sensing (MICHESS) program, will serve as Xavier's principal investigator for the ESRA collaboration.

"At Xavier, we'll work on understanding interfacial reactions in solid-state cells which is crucial for improving the performance of solid-state batteries," said Dr. Meda. "We have developed a solid-state electrolyte and will take advantage of this electrolyte to understand how different materials interact at their boundaries, which is a key factor in optimizing ion conductivity and overall cell performance. Our primary focus is understanding interfacial reactions using a variety of techniques."

ESRA, leveraging decades of national investment in science, seeks to enable transformative discoveries in materials chemistry, gain a fundamental understanding of electrochemical phenomena at the atomic scale, lay the scientific foundations for breakthroughs in energy storage technologies, and train the next-generation battery workforce to ensure U.S. scientific and economic leadership. Over the next five years, DOE's Office of Basic Energy Sciences will fund ESRA up to \$62.5 million with Argonne National Laboratory as the lead organization.

The achievement of ESRA's goals will lead to h « « /



*Established almost a century ago in 1925 by Saint Katharine Drexel and the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament as a place for African Americans and Native Americans to receive a quality education, Xavier has since expanded its programs in nearly*