

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

For More Information:

Marsha Barnes 301-650-2440 office 301-495-3306 fax
8701 Georgia Avenue - Silver Spring, MD 20910 www.nafeo.org

**NAFEO SELECTS OVER 100 TOP GRADUATES
AS DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI**

***DARRYL D. LASSITER - ATLANTA FILMMAKER/MUSICIAN
SELECTED AS 2001 DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI***

(Washington, D.C. – December 9, 2000) – MR. DARRYL D. LASSITER is one of the 200 or more outstanding graduates of historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) being honored as Distinguished Alumni at NAFEO's 26th National Conference on Blacks in Higher Education, March 19-24, 2001, at the Hilton Washington and Towers Hotel, Washington, DC. The Conference is sponsored by the National Association for Equal Opportunity in Higher Education (NAFEO).

Alabama State University, located in Montgomery, AL nominated Mr. Lassiter for this honor. He is currently producing and directing a national TV show in 26 markets. He is also negotiating with a major film distribution company in Hollywood for his motion picture "PAY THE PRICE" which he wrote, produced and directed. He is also putting the final touches on the first of his four books to be released in the summer, 2001. A native of Birmingham, AL, by way of New York City, Bessemer-AL and Montgomery-AL, he received the B.A. from A.S.U. in 1986. He also attended THE HOLLYWOOD FILM INSTITUTE in 1998 and received the PRODUCER/DIRECTOR Certificate.

He previously was **Sports/Entertainment Editor** at The Atlanta Daily World Newspaper, **National Publicity & Video Director** at CGI Records. Lassiter has also been a **Writer, Producer, Director** and/or **Editor** at four television stations, a **News Reporter** at one station and **Music Director/Announcer** at three radio stations. He has

received numerous honors including “Best Family Drama” NEW YORK INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL, “Best Music Video” VIDEOGRAPHER AWARD, “Best News Feature” TELLY AWARD.

“The NAFEO citation recognizes the tremendous contributions that the alumni of the 118 HBCUs have made in the political, education, military, economic, business, entertainment, and social arenas of this country and the world. The highlight of these individuals assists in keeping the doors of opportunity open for others to excel in success and to value the glory of achievement and service to our society”, exclaimed Henry Ponder, CEO and President of NAFEO.

“Traditional Black Colleges and Universities have fostered the integration of our students into our society, where unfortunately Blacks account for only one to two percent of most professionals in the nation, by graduating approximately half of the Black lawyers, doctors, ministers and others,” Ponder stated in announcing the 2001 honorees.

“This ranks right up there with three other big awards I’ve won including the *Film Festival Award, 1997 Alumni Award from A.S.U. and the Key To The City from my hometown,*” says Mr. Lassiter. “This is an even greater award because it derives from a higher educational organization”.

The HBCU alumni will be introduced and feted at a special conference session and honored at NAFEO’s closing Leadership Awards Banquet, Friday, March 23rd. NAFEO is an association of 118 of the nation’s historically and predominantly Black institutions of higher learning, including public and private, two-year and four-year, undergraduate and graduate schools. It was founded in 1969 as a nonprofit, voluntary independent association representing the HBCUs, which enroll some 370,000 students each year and graduate more than 40,000 alumni annually.

###