



AFRICAN AMERICAN BOARD LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE™

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MEDIA CONTACT:

Victoire Prothro, Communications

PHONE 213 346-3241

vprothro@aabli.org

PATHWAYS TO CORPORATE BOARDS 2016

The African American Board Leadership Institute (AABLI) Los Angeles, California, September 19, 2016 – At a September 15 workshop, the African American Board Leadership Institute (AABLI) assembled a prestigious panel of experts to provide hard truths, from the perspectives of experienced search firms, to a packed audience of professionals at “Pathways to Corporate Boards,” part of AABLI’s Educational Leadership Series.

Representing the nation’s leading search firms were AABLI board chair Larry Taylor, Ph.D., The Creighton Group (moderator); Brigitte Frankel, partner, Spencer Stuart; Edward Savage, managing director, Stanton Chase International, and Caroline Nahas, vice chairman, Korn Ferry. Held at the California Endowment’s Los Angeles Conference Center, the workshop showed board hopefuls how to navigate the ins and outs of the director selection process.

Asked to describe the search firm’s responsibility to its clients--both the corporation and the individual--Frankel said she ultimately represents her client, the corporation. Her focus, she said, is on recruiting assignments for CEOs and board members, as well as senior-level positions across a range of functions, including commercial, research and development, and finance. For individuals looking for corporate board consideration, she added, “the best use of one’s time” is to visit her company’s website to register rather than using the cold call method.

Nahas’ approach to actively searching for diverse candidates is straightforward. “Although the intent is good,” she said, “the results can be different. Therefore, I stress to my client the need to open the criteria to allow the search to stay focused on the desired outcome.”

“Global practice leaders look at trends, new initiatives and problems to inform the search team of findings while making candidate recommendations,” explained Savage. “The ‘good ole boys’ network is phasing out – due to current and stricter rules and regulations,” he said. “The search criteria focuses on people who are effective and can lead.”

The mission of the African American Board Leadership Institute is to strengthen nonprofit, public and private organizations through recruiting, preparing and placing African Americans on a broad range of governing boards. For more information about AABLI, visit www.aabli.org

###