



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 24, 2018

MEDIA CONTACT:
Victoire Prothro
Communications
PHONE 213 346-3241
vprothro@aabli.org

**THE AFRICAN AMERICAN BOARD LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE
PRESENTS ITS CORPORATE DIRECTORS INITIATIVE**

Los Angeles, CA – The African American Board Leadership Institute (AABLI), a nonprofit organization that connects forward-looking organizations with excellent board candidates, announced its Corporate Directors Initiative (CDI). This is an educational program designed to strengthen the pipeline of people of color to serve on corporate boards around the world.

This new initiative will begin with an inaugural one-day forum, “Foundations of Corporate Governance”, on Monday, October 8, 2018, at the Jonathan Club in Los Angeles, CA. The forum will assist participants with career planning such that a future role as a corporate director is more probable.

Program scheduled speakers include, **Yasmin Davidds**, Psy.D., CEO, Latina Global Executive Leadership and Entrepreneur Institute; **Rudolph Estrada**, lead director, East West Bank and CEO, Estradagy Business Advisors; **Rose McKinney-James**, board member, MGM Resorts International and Toyota Financial; **Kenneth Merchant**, Ph.D., professor, USC Marshall School and board member, ACT Holdings; **Caroline Nahas**, vice chairman, Korn Ferry and board member, DineEquity; **Sung Won Sohn**, Ph.D., board member, Western Alliance Bancorporation and LACERS; **Larry Taylor**, Ph.D., CEO/president, National Association of Corporate Directors-Pacific Southwest, chair, Novaria Aerospace MR Board and board member of AABLI; **Wendy Markus Webb**, board member, ABM Industries and Wynn Resorts; and **Paul Williams**, president, NACD Chicago and board member, Essendant, Inc.

Adding to this impressive list of seasoned corporate board members is a special luncheon speaker, **John W. Rogers, Jr.**, chairman, CEO, chief investment officer of Ariel Investments, LLC, board member of Exelon, McDonald’s & The New York Times Company.

“Participants will emerge with the tools necessary to plot their personal paths to boards in the corporate sector,” stated AABLI Board Chair Virgil Roberts.

Registration is currently open to professionals of color, who aspire to enhance their readiness for corporate board governance. To learn more, visit <https://aabli.org/programs-and-services/corporate-directors-initiative-aabli-cdi/> or call (213) 335-3601.

The mission of the African American Board Leadership Institute is to strengthen nonprofit, public and private organizations through recruiting, preparing and assisting with the placement of African Americans on a broad range of governing boards.

For more information about AABLI, visit www.aabli.org

###