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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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THE AFRICAN AMERICAN BOARD LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE (AABLI) HONORS
U.S. BANK and CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY FOUNDATION LEADERS

Darrell Brown, senior vice president of U.S. Bank's Consumer Banking Group, and Antonia Hernández, chief executive officer of the California Community Foundation, were honored on May 11 by the African American Board Leadership Institute (AABLI) for their support of community leadership development. The executives were recognized at AABLI's third annual Tribute Reception, held at The City Club in downtown Los Angeles.

Brown and Hernández were saluted as early "thought leaders" in the creation of the AABLI vision, to strengthen nonprofit, public and private organizations through recruiting, preparing and placing African Americans on a broad range of governing boards.

"It was an honor to be a part of building the framework for AABLI," Brown told the packed City Club audience. What the organization creates, he said, "is the pathway to allow African Americans to sit at the head of the table, where essential decisions are made for our communities."

Citing one of his grandmother's favorite expressions after the serving of a huge meal, Brown urged AABLI to "save its fork. The best is yet to come."

Hernández observed that the AABLI recognition represented a "team award." Her California Community Foundation colleagues, she said, "are committed to the continued evolution of diversity in board rooms across the country."

"As we collectively work to improve the expectations for diversity as the norm, we are in fact creating a revolution for change in how the selection process for board and commission appointments are made. I am excited for the future."

Jessie Kornberg, president and CEO of the prominent Bet Tzedek public interest law firm, said Brown “understands the importance of providing opportunities for people of color to advance the needle of change in board rooms while addressing the concerns of the communities we all serve.”

Weingart Foundation President and CEO Fred Ali said AABLI’s mission “is in direct alignment with Antonia’s dedication to providing access to significant leadership roles for people of color.”

The tribute reception was sponsored by U.S. Bank, California Community Foundation, Toyota Motor Sales, SoCalGas, UPS, California Endowment, Broadway Federal Bank, Economic Resource Corporation [Is this Economic Resources Corporation?], City National Bank, Brotherhood Crusade, and Stuart Lott, Esq.

“As we continue to make a positive impact in the board rooms, our numbers confirm we are on the right track,” said Virgil Roberts, AABLI’s board chair. “Since November 2012, we have graduated 10 cohorts through the Board Leadership Program. To date there are 410 AABLI alumni, and we’ve assisted with over 90 board placements (nonprofit, commissions, and university trustees).”

“Numerous organizations provide board training, but few provide training and placement. AABLI does both,” said Yvette Chappell-Ingram, AABLI president and CEO. “At the same time, it is building a pipeline of eminently qualified African American board candidates.”

Previous AABLI honorees are Robert Ross, M.D., president and CEO of the California Endowment; Charisse Bremond-Weaver and George Weaver of Brotherhood Crusade’s Brother to Brother Youth Program; John Mack, former president of the Los Angeles Board of Police Commissioners, and Noel Massie, president, UPS Southern California District.

AABLI’s board of directors includes Virgil Roberts (chair), managing partner of the law firm Bobbitt & Roberts; Carl Ballton (ret.), past president and CEO of the Union Bank Foundation; Eugene Boykins, president of BBGC; Paul Hudson, founder of Paul C. Hudson Consulting; Vincent Jones, CEO & chief strategist at Reinvent Communications; Beverly Ryder, president of Ryder Consulting; Larry Taylor, Ph.D., international corporate governance professional and chairman, The Creighton Group Foundation; Reveta Bowers (emeritus), head of school for The Center for Early Education [Note to Vickie--how does Reveta wish to be designated now that she has retired from the Center?]; and Yvette Chappell-Ingram, AABLI president and CEO.

For more information about AABLI, visit www.aabli.org or call (213) 346-3241.

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