



Contact: Victoire “Vickie” Prothro
Direct: (213) 346-3241
vprothro@aabli.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THE AFRICAN AMERICAN BOARD LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE (AABLI) HONORS UNION BANK and the RALPH M. PARSONS FOUNDATION LEADERS

LOS ANGELES – May 22, 2018 -- Union Bank, represented by Sylvia Castillo, director, foundation and community outreach officer, and Ralph M. Parsons Foundation, represented by Wendy Garan, president & CEO, were honored on May 16 by the African American Board Leadership Institute (AABLI) for their support of community leadership development. These organizations were presented AABLI’s 2018 Vision Awards, held at the City Club in Los Angeles.

Union Bank invests philanthropic dollars into communities with the expectation of a return of healthy communities. As Carl Ballton, one of AABLI’s founding board members, presents Castillo with a Vision Award he states, “Union Bank’s support of AABLI has provided leaders for nonprofit, government and educational organizations that govern those target communities.” Castillo accepting the honor said, “We must be seated firmly at the table in order for our voices to be heard.”

Ballton continued to address the packed room by acknowledging the Ralph M. Parsons Foundation, established in 1961, distributed over \$18 million in grants last year. Garan confirmed, “We need diversity in the board room. I know how important it is to have a pipeline of civic leadership that really reflects the diversity in our community.”

“We use this occasion to bring our community together to present the AABLI Vision Award,” said AABLI Co-Founder, President and CEO Yvette Chappell-Ingram. She continues, “These two responsive grant makers are examples of thought leaders who help move the needle of change in board rooms to address community concerns with contemporary relevance - the foundation of AABLI’s purpose.”

Virgil Roberts, AABLI’s co-founder and board chair, stated, “AABLI’s graduates make meaningful and significant contributions as members of governing boards, these visionary partners have made significant contributions to the community, particularly in opening the doors of opportunity to shape positive change in the boardrooms.”

Previous AABLI honorees are Fred Ali, president and CEO, Weingart Foundation; Janet Clayton, senior vice president, Corporate Communications, Southern California Edison and Edison International; Cheryl Boone Isaacs, past president, Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences; Darrell Brown, senior vice president of U.S. Bank’s Consumer Banking Group; Antonia Hernández, chief executive officer of the California Community Foundation; 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.

About the African Board Leadership Institute

The African American Board Leadership Institute (a project of Community Partners, an independent 501(c)(3) nonprofit), is a premier organization whose mission 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. AABLI alumni serve diverse communities by shaping positive change. For more information about AABLI's activities, visit www.aabli.org.

###

1000 North Alameda Street | Suite 240 | Los Angeles | CA 90012