



AFRICAN AMERICAN BOARD LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE®

Contact: Victoire “Vickie” Prothro
Direct: (310) 293-9456
vprothro@aabli.org

AABLI to Honor Community and Business Visionary Partners A shared commitment to diversity; moving communities forward

LOS ANGELES – May 7, 2019 -- The African American Board Leadership Institute (AABLI) has selected the **Annenberg Foundation** and the **Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (METRO)** to receive its *2019 Vision Awards*. A new award, the *John Mack Humanitarian Award*, will be presented to widely respected nonprofit management and fundraising consultant **David Crippens**. Both presentations will take place May 23 at AABLI’s annual Tribute Reception at the City Club in Los Angeles.

The Annenberg Foundation, to be represented by Ciny Kennard, executive director, was established in 1989 and [distributed \\$133 million in grants in 2017](#). The Foundation focuses on organizations that demonstrate a deep level of community involvement, that are led by effective leaders and that tackle challenging contemporary problems. It values visionary leadership, impact, sustainability, innovation, organizational strength, strong partnership networks and the dedication to serve populations in need.

METRO, to be represented by Marion Jane Colston, senior director for strategic and organizational planning, is unique among the nation’s transportation agencies. In addition to its role as the area’s leading transportation planner, it serves as coordinator, designer, builder and operator of systems for one of the country’s largest, most populous counties. More than 9.6 million people – nearly one-third of California’s residents – live, work and play within METRO’s 1,433-square-mile service area.

The John Mack Humanitarian Award, AABLI’s first, will recognize an exceptional individual committed to social equality, justice and proactive engagement in improving the quality of life in all communities. David Crippens exemplifies the legacy of the late John Mack, longtime leader of the Los Angeles Urban League, and the philosophy of the African American Board Leadership Institute.

“These honorees are examples of individuals, companies, and foundations that help move the needle of change in board rooms, making things better for our communities,” said Virgil Roberts, AABLI co-founder and board chair. “That’s what AABLI is all about.”

As members of governing boards, AABLI graduates continue to make meaningful contributions to the community, shaping positive change and impacting policy.

“Over the years, we’ve used the Tribute Reception to bring our community together in celebration of the AABLI Vision Awards,” said AABLI President and CEO Yvette Chappell-Ingram, the organization’s co-founder. “This year’s honorees demonstrate how, together, we can address community concerns through our active, informed participation in board rooms where the important decisions are made.”

Past recipients include:

2018

Union Bank - Sylvia Castillo, Director, Foundation and Community Outreach Officer
Ralph M. Parsons Foundation - Wendy Garen, President & CEO

2017

Edison International / SCE - Janet Clayton, Senior Vice President, Corporate Communications

Weingart Foundation - Fred Ali, President & CEO
Cheryl Boone Isaacs, President - Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences

2016

California Community Foundation - Antonia Hernandez, President & CEO
US Bank - Darrell Brown, Senior Vice President

2015

California Endowment - Dr. Robert Ross, President
Brotherhood Crusade - Charisse Bremond Weaver, President, and George Weaver, Special Programs Director

2014

UPS Southern California - Noel Massie, President
John Mack, Past President - Los Angeles Police Commission and the Los Angeles Urban League

For Tribute Reception ticket information, please contact Victoire Prothro at (213) 346-3241 or vprothro@aabli.org.

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.

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