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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AABLI HONORS THE ANNENBERG FOUNDATION, METRO AND ACTIVIST DAVID CRIPPENS

LOS ANGELES – May 24, 2019 -- The African American Board Leadership Institute (AABLI) has honored the **Annenberg Foundation** and the **Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (METRO)** with its 2019 Vision Awards, AABLI’s annual salute to organizations that work to help and empower underrepresented communities.

This year, AABLI launched a new award in honor of the late John Mack, longtime president of the Los Angeles Urban League. Community activist David Crippens, a widely respected nonprofit management consultant, is the first recipient of the John Mack Humanitarian Award.

Annenberg Foundation Executive Director Cinny Kennard said her organization, like AABLI, is committed to diversifying board rooms. Pledging to continue the foundation’s support for AABLI’s work preparing exceptional African American professionals for board leadership, she said “both organizations share the...dedication to serve populations in need.”

The Annenberg Foundation focuses on organizations that demonstrate a deep level of community involvement, that are led by effective leaders and that tackle challenging contemporary problems.

Marion Jane Colston, METRO’s senior director for strategic and organizational planning, has accepted AABLI’s Corporate Vision Award on behalf of METRO’s CEO Phillip Washington. Acknowledging AABLI’s mission to “train and develop future leaders and board members,” Colston said “your decision to serve on a board may be that single voice that influences change.”

METRO is the area’s leading transportation planner, serving as coordinator, designer, builder and operator of systems for one of the country’s most populous counties.

Accepting the John Mack Humanitarian Award, Crippens said he and Mack had “the same passion and commitment to serve our community by never giving up on the necessity to speak out when injustice was evident. Although I miss my friend, I know he stands with me as I encourage each of you to never, never give up on your responsibility to safeguard everyone’s right to social equality and justice. This includes the advancement of diversity and inclusion in every board room--the legacy of John Mack and the philosophy of AABLI.”

All presentations took place during AABLI’s May 23 Tribute Reception at the City Club in Los Angeles.

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 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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