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Women of Color Foundation Launches Program to help Black Women Access the C-Suite

The Black Women's Leadership Project will focus on enhancing Participant's leadership skills, and connecting them with C-Suite Level Executives

Cleveland, Ohio (March 22, 2021) The **Women of Color Foundation (WOCF)** is launching an 8-month program, **Black Women's Leadership Project (BWLP)**, aimed at grooming and supporting Black women senior executives and entrepreneurs to advance into C-Suite level positions within corporations, businesses, and non-profit organizations. The BWLP will provide educational sessions on leadership facilitated by seasoned executives, prominent business leaders and female entrepreneurs in the community. Participants in the program will also meet monthly with women executives and coaches who will provide more personalized training and opportunities for high-level networking.

For nineteen years, the Women of Color Foundation has fostered networking, mentoring and personal and professional development, through education, training programs and activities for women of color, with a focus on Black women.

As the organization nears its 20th year of service in 2022, founder and chairwoman Alexandria Johnson Boone felt it was time to create a more significant and sustainable legacy. "We are launching the Black Women's Leadership Project because systemic racism has long denied access and opportunity for Black Women to be included in mainstream career and leadership development programs that could significantly impact their readiness to lead and build organizations and their communities", says Boone. LeanIn.Org and McKinsey and Co. noted in their *Woman in the Workplace* report in October 2019 that Women of Color make up 4% of the C-suite. Additionally, in a CityLab livability index reported in Bloomberg.Com in January of 2020, Cleveland is listed as one of the cities significantly below the median for Black women in health, education, and economic outcomes. "The time is now", says Boone, 'to help level the playing field for Black women."

The Black Women's Leadership Project, which officially kicks off on April 28th via Zoom, is supported by a \$50,000 grant from the Dominion Energy Charitable Foundation. Black women who are interested in participating in the program must complete an application and have the support of senior leadership within their organization. The application process is competitive,

more.....

Page 2

March 22, 2021

Women of Color Foundation - Black Women's Leadership Project News Release

and finalists will be selected by a committee comprised of WOCF Board Members and C- suite level women executives from the greater Cleveland business and civic community. Interested parties should visit the website: www.womenofcolorfoundation.com for more information and instructions on how to apply.

About Women of Color Foundation

The Women of Color Foundation is a 501(c)3, tax-exempt foundation organized in 2005 to foster networking and to provide personal and professional development, education, and training to all women of color. The predecessor for WOCF organization was Women of Color Events that began hosting executive retreats in 2003.

Over time, WOCF's vision has evolved to include White women, the LGBTQ community, and administrators and inmates of women's prison facilities in many aspects of planning, programming, and critical social thinking.

Visit the Women of Color Foundation at www.womenofcolorfoundation.com for more information.

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