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The PhD Project Announces Dr. Jason Thatcher Named to the Prestigious “Circle of Compadres”

Montvale, NJ- The PhD Project, an award-winning program to create a more diverse corporate America, is proud to announce that PhD Project participant Dr. Jason Thatcher, associate professor of information Systems in Clemson University’s department of management, has been named to the prestigious “Circle of Compadres” by the Information Systems Doctoral Student Association (IDSA) of The PhD Project. The “Circle of Compadres” recognizes faculty who promote and inspire African-American, Hispanic-American and Native American Information Systems doctoral students as they pursue their degrees and take their place in the academic profession. Those chosen are outstanding mentors to Ph.D. students in Information Systems and related STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) disciplines.

“I am delighted that the students chose me for this award,” Dr. Thatcher said. “We need faculty that represent the breadth of the American experience in front of the classroom. I look forward to supporting my friends in the Ph.D. Project in pursuit of that goal.”

The PhD Project, a 501(c) (3) organization that the KPMG Foundation founded in 1994, recruits minority professionals from business into doctoral programs in all business disciplines. Since its inception, The PhD Project has been responsible for the increase in the number of minority business professors from 294 to 1,168. Further, 359 minorities are currently enrolled in doctoral programs, and will take a place at the front of the classroom over the next few years. The Project attacks the root cause of minority under-representation in corporate jobs: historically, very few minority college students study business as an entrée to a corporate career. Diversifying the faculty attracts more minorities to study business and better prepares all students to function in a diverse workforce.

“We are thrilled that Dr. Thatcher was named to the IDSA Circle of Compadres. He has demonstrated dedication, hard work and intelligence and continues to influence the next generation of business leaders,” said Bernard J. Milano, President of The PhD Project and president of the KPMG Foundation, founder and lead funder of the program. “The PhD Project takes great pride in his achievement.

Since joining Clemson in 2002, Dr. Thatcher has mentored students in many different ways ranging from sponsoring the Association for Information Systems student group to one-on-one interaction with students through Clemson’s Eureka and Creative Inquiry programs. Thatcher emphasized that the award reflects more on Clemson’s continued commitment to diversity than it does on his own personal merits. **Dr. Thatcher holds degrees in history and political science from the University of Utah, as well as a Master of Public Administration degree from the Askew School of Public Administration and Policy and a Ph.D. in business administration from Florida State University.** Prior to joining Clemson University, he won a teaching award at Florida State University.

Some of America's top companies, foundations, associations and academic organizations support The PhD Project. They are: [KPMG Foundation](#), [Graduate Management Admission Council](#), [Citi Foundation](#), [AACSB International](#), 275 universities, [AICPA Foundation](#), [DiversityInc](#), [JPMorgan Chase Foundation](#), [The Merck Company Foundation](#), [Microsoft Corporation](#), [Dixon Hughes Goodman LLP](#), [Rockwell Collins](#), [American Marketing Association](#), [AT&T](#), [John Deere Foundation](#), [CIGNA](#), [ADP](#), [American Express](#), [The Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago](#), [California State University System](#), [Edison International](#), [Lincoln Financial Group](#), [Greater New York Hospital Association](#) and [Aerotek/TEKsystems \(operating companies of Allegis Group\)](#) .

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