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### **Academy of Management Increases Funding of Award-Winning Diversity Program**

Montvale, NJ. September, 2014 — The Academy of Management (AOM) has increased its funding of The PhD Project, an award-winning program to increase diversity in America's business schools, with a commitment of \$25,000 per year (combined cash and in-kind registration). AOM is an organization of over 19,000 members from nearly 120 nations with 25 professional divisions and interest groups that promote excellence in established management disciplines. They are a co-funder of The Project along with some of America's largest corporations, foundations and academic organizations.

"We are pleased to expand our funding to the PhD Project that we have supported since its very early years," said Nancy Urbanowicz, Executive Director of the Academy of Management. "The important work of the PhD Project aligns with our mission to tend to the next generation of scholars committed to making a difference in the profession and in the lives of countless management students that our members touch through their scholarship and teaching each year."

The PhD Project was created to address the severe under-representation of African-Americans, Hispanic-Americans and Native Americans in management positions. The Project attracts African, Hispanic, and Native Americans to business doctoral programs in an effort to create a more diverse business school faculty. These faculty are role models and mentors who, in turn, encourage minorities to pursue business degrees and better prepare all business students for today's multicultural work environment.

"This support from AOM sends a strong message of inspiration and encouragement to those considering leaving their current careers to enter a management doctoral program," said Bernard J. Milano, President of the KPMG Foundation, the founder and lead funder of the program. "Those that choose this path are on their way to becoming part of the academic world, influencing generations to come. Our thanks to the AOM Board and membership."

When The PhD Project was created, there were only 294 doctorally qualified African-American, Hispanic American or Native American business professors in all U.S. business schools. Today, there are 1,253 minority business professors. Further, 311 minorities are currently enrolled in doctoral programs, and will take a place at the front of the classroom over the next few years. The PhD Project provides direct access to these individuals, so companies providing funding at or above a certain level can connect with participants and their students to share information about careers, scholarships and other educational initiatives.

Each year, highly qualified professionals who are considering leaving their careers to enter doctoral programs in business are invited to The PhD Project Conference where they hear from deans, professors and current minority doctoral students about the benefits of pursuing a business Ph.D. Conference participants are provided with the tools and resources they need for the application/admission process to doctoral programs. Once they enter a program, every minority business doctoral student in an AACSB accredited U.S. business school becomes a member of one of The Project's five (accounting, finance, information systems, marketing and management) Doctoral Student Associations (DSAs). Each year, The Project holds a Conference for each of the five DSAs where the doctoral students come together forming a strong support network while receiving important tools to help them navigate their doctoral programs.

Since 1997 The PhD Project Management Doctoral Student Association Conference has been held in conjunction with the AOM Annual meeting, and as a result of AOM support, The PhD Project members have been afforded the unique opportunity to attend the AOM event each year.

Some of America's top companies, foundations, associations and academic organizations support The PhD Project along with the AOM. They are: [KPMG Foundation](#), [Graduate Management Admission Council](#), [Citi Foundation](#), [AACSB International](#), over 285 participating universities, [AICPA Foundation](#), [DiversityInc](#), [JPMorgan Chase Foundation](#), [The Merck Company Foundation](#), [Microsoft Corporation](#), [Dixon Hughes Goodman LLP](#), [Rockwell Collins](#), [Wal-Mart Stores, Inc.](#), [American Marketing Association](#), [John Deere Foundation](#), [CIGNA](#), [ADP](#), [Edison International](#) (on behalf of the [California State University System](#)), [Lincoln Financial Group](#), [Aerotek/ TEKsystems \(operating companies of Allegis Group\)](#), [3M](#), [American Accounting Association](#), [The Hershey Company](#) and [VMware](#).

For more information on The PhD Project, visit: <http://www.phdproject.org> or contact Lisa King at 646-234-5080 or [lisak@mediaimpact.biz](mailto:lisak@mediaimpact.biz). Connect with our members at [www.MyPhDNetwork.org](http://www.MyPhDNetwork.org); Visit us on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/thehdproject>; Follow us on Twitter at [www.twitter.com/ThePhDProject](http://www.twitter.com/ThePhDProject).