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For Immediate Release

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PRESS RELEASE

Philanthropy scholar seeks to educate people of color about how charitable giving can change their communities for the better

DALLAS – May 14, 2018 – Halima Leak Francis, Ph.D. is expanding the conversation about philanthropy in communities of color upon the completion of her doctoral dissertation *Making Bricks Without Straw: The Kresge HBCU Initiative and Fundraising at Historically Black Colleges and Universities*. Leak Francis' dissertation contributes to what she hopes to be a robust exploration into how people of color can use their dollars and sweat equity to create sustainable change in their communities, and she welcomes opportunities to discuss her research with the media.

“My research focused on the implications for HBCU fundraising, but it also informs the conversation about philanthropy on a broader scale,” says Leak Francis. “Charitable giving has tremendous creative power; and thoughtful philanthropic investment can not only present solutions to problems we face today, it can influence what the world will look like tomorrow.” She also wants to help usher in a new generation of people of color conducting research about the power of charitable giving.

Leak Francis' research centered on the Kresge HBCU Initiative which was designed to support HBCUs in improving their fundraising operations. The Kresge Foundation granted \$18 million to five HBCUs to help them build their fundraising capacity. The project took place from 2001 to 2006 and included: Bethune-Cookman University, Dillard University, Johnson C. Smith University, Meharry Medical College, and Xavier University of Louisiana.

As she researched the initiative, Leak Francis began to wonder how she could educate people of color on how “intentional charitable giving” could lead to community betterment, considering other areas such as economic development, healthcare, the arts, and the justice system. Her research combined with her practical experiences as a charitable giving professional led to her forming the Purposeful Philanthropy Foundation.

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With close to 20 years' experience in philanthropy, Leak Francis is a college professor, community volunteer, and the founder of the Purposeful Philanthropy Foundation. She is also co-chair of the Dallas-based HERitage Giving Fund which was founded by fellow philanthropy advocate Akilah Wallace. Leak Francis has written about charitable giving for *The Huffington Post* and *Black Enterprise*. She publishes the "Write to Bear Alms" blog and hosts a segment of the same name on the "Eddie Francis Podcast Show". With a proven track record in the development of comprehensive and sustainable fundraising programs, Leak Francis has worked at Barnard College of Columbia University, the New York University School of Law, and the City University of New York. She is also responsible for founding the first Center for Fundraising and Philanthropy at an HBCU and consults with the Texas Muslim Women's Foundation. A native of Winston-Salem, N.C., Leak Francis earned her bachelor's in English from Hampton University before earning her master's in Educational Sociology and Ph.D. in Higher Education from NYU's Steinhardt School of Culture, Education, and Human Development.

About the Purposeful Philanthropy Foundation

The Purposeful Philanthropy Foundation is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization whose mission is to “promote intentional charitable giving as a catalyst for sustainable community betterment.” The organization’s programs are designed to produce knowledge through research and studies, to provide public commentary about philanthropy, and to educate communities through forums and presentations.

To schedule interviews, contact Eddie Francis at 469-454-2473.

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