



**EMPOWER PHILANTHROPY!**  
**ANNUAL CONFERENCE** PRESENTED BY  
ABFE  
BALTIMORE, MD ♦ APRIL 7-9 ♦ 2016

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Media Contact:**

Dani Johnson, 410-299-1341

[dani@aspecialgathering.com](mailto:dani@aspecialgathering.com)

### **ABFE Contact:**

Erika Seth Davies, 443-765-4008

[edavies@abfe.org](mailto:edavies@abfe.org)

## **ABFE: A Philanthropic Partnership for Black Communities Announces 2016 James A. Joseph Lecture Winners**

[February 11, 2016, New York, NY] ABFE, A Philanthropic Partnership for Black Communities, announced today that Aurie A. Pennick, J.D., Executive Director of Field Foundation, Jehan Benton-Clark, Senior Program Officer of Kate B. Reynolds Charitable Trust, and the Ford Foundation will receive recognition and honors at the organization's 25th Annual James A. Joseph Lecture (JJL) and Awards Reception on Saturday, April 9, 2016 in Baltimore, Maryland.

In 2016, ABFE will commemorate 45 years of advocacy and service in promoting effective and responsive philanthropy in Black communities. ABFE is at the center of a movement that inspires grantmaking entities, philanthropic individuals and nonprofits in the US to work collectively towards a brighter future for Black communities and the country as a whole. ABFE is committed to helping empower philanthropy, by leveraging our collective action, as a unified and strategic force.

The 25<sup>th</sup> Annual JJL is ABFE's signature event at the #EmpowerPhilanthropy Annual Conference that highlights philanthropic leadership in support of Black communities. During the event, ABFE will present the 2016 James A. Joseph Lecturer, the Institutional Leader in Philanthropy award, and Emerging Leader in Philanthropy award. The evening will commence with the formal awards program and lecture. A dinner reception and celebration for ABFE friends, supporters and guests will immediately follow.

ABFE would like to congratulate the following 2016 James A. Joseph Lecture recipients:

### **James A. Joseph Lecturer on Philanthropy**

**Presented to: Ms. Aurie A. Pennick, J.D., Executive Director, Field Foundation of Illinois**

*Aurie succeeded Handy L. Lindsey Jr. (2003 James A. Joseph lecturer) as Executive Director of the Field Foundation in 2004. Since that time, she had been the architect of a social justice strategy focused on six core funding areas: community welfare, culture, education, environment, health and urban and community affairs. Central to Aurie's Field Foundation work has been a commitment to support programs and strategies focused on working towards ending violence in Chicago's most vulnerable communities. As such, Aurie spearheaded Field Foundation efforts to actively participate in the work of Illinois Juvenile Justice Leadership Council, as well as that of Metropolis Strategies' Illinois Justice Project.*

-over-

---

ABFE is a membership-based philanthropic organization that advocates for responsive and transformative investments in Black communities. Partnering with foundations, nonprofits and individuals, ABFE provides its members with professional development and technical assistance resources that further the philanthropic sector's connection and responsiveness to issues of equity, diversity and inclusion. Established in 1971 as the Association of Black Foundation Executives, the organization was credited with many of philanthropy's early gains in diversity. It since has evolved into an influential network. In 2013, the organization shed its descriptor and adopted the simpler ABFE (ab-fee) to better reflect its broadening membership. For more information, visit [www.abfe.org](http://www.abfe.org).



**EMPOWER PHILANTHROPY!**  
**ANNUAL CONFERENCE** PRESENTED BY ABFE  
BALTIMORE, MD ♦ APRIL 7-9 ♦ 2016

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Institutional Award for Philanthropic Leadership**

#### **Presented to: Ford Foundation**

*The Ford Foundation is an independent, nonprofit grant-making organization with headquarters in New York and offices in Africa, Asia, Latin America, and the Middle East. For the past 80 years, the foundation has worked with courageous people on the frontlines of social change worldwide, guided by its mission to strengthen democratic values, reduce poverty and injustice, promote international cooperation, and advance human achievement. Currently, the foundation makes grants and leads programming in seven interconnected areas focused on challenging inequality in all its forms, including gender, racial and ethnic justice, civic engagement and government, free expression and creativity, equitable development, youth opportunity and learning, Internet freedom, and inclusive economies.*

### **Emerging Leader in Philanthropy**

#### **Presented to: Jehan Benton-Clark, Senior Program Officer, Kate B. Reynolds Charitable Trust**

*Jehan is a leader at Kate B. Reynolds Charitable Trust and is highly regarded in the North Carolina philanthropic and nonprofit arena. She led the Trust's work to develop public-private solutions to combat prescription drug abuse, resulting in a \$2.6 million program to address chronic pain statewide. She has also led the development and growth of the Trust's integrated care and behavioral health and substance abuse work and funding interests.*

A selection committee reviewed the nomination submissions. The JJJ award recipients were chosen based upon a set of criteria covering their experience in philanthropy, their goals for the future and their interest and passion for making systemic change in Black communities.

#EmpowerPhilanthropy! 2016 will offer the best and most promising practices in the field of philanthropy to strengthen Black families and communities. Attendees will experience a set of informative workshops, plenaries and networking opportunities to increase the impact of their work.

For a complete list of previous JJJ award winners or to learn more about #EmpowerPhilanthropy 2016 as it develops, please visit [ABFE.org](http://ABFE.org).

# # #