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## **Black Professionals Association Charitable Foundation Names Randell McShepard 2011 Black Professional of the Year**

*25 Years of Exemplary Service in Non-Profit Management and Government Affairs*

**Cleveland, Ohio** Last week, the 2011 Black Professional of the Year was named. As part of its commitment of providing scholarships and inspiring African Americans in Northeast Ohio, the Black Professionals Association Charitable Foundation (BPACF) announced **Randell McShepard as the 2011 Black Professional of the Year**. Since 1980, BPACF has annually recognized a black professional for significant leadership, contribution, and community service.

This year BPACF will return to its signature Black Tie affair. The **Gala Event is scheduled for Saturday, October 22, 2011**. The location will be at the Renaissance Cleveland Hotel.

McShepard is Vice President of Public Affairs for RPM International, one of Cleveland's leading manufacturing and specialty companies. He is responsible for coordinating external and governmental affairs, including management of the corporate philanthropy program and corporate purchasing initiatives.

In addition to his professional career, McShepard has more than 20 years in public affairs and is a leader in non-profit and philanthropic endeavors. He is a board of trustee for Baldwin Wallace College, Cleveland School of Science and Medicine, the Union Club of Cleveland and the Community Service Alliance, which provide transitional housing for hundreds of the city's homeless and displaced residents. Additionally, McShepard is past Chairman, Sisters of Charity Foundation, Workforce Investment Board, past Vice-Chair, Funds for Our Economic Future and served on two Governor appointed boards - The Ohio Community Service Council and the Quarter Commission.

McShepard recently used his organizational development skills as an Executive Committee member to facilitate transformative change and reform with the newly restructured County government. McShepard is also the Co-Founder and Chairman of PolicyBridge, a public policy think tank serving the Northeast Ohio region. He is recognized by Cleveland Magazine among the 100 Most Powerful People (2010) and was recognized by the United Negro College Fund with the Inaugural Torchbearer Award for Leadership in Education in the Community (2011).

"Randell exemplifies the character of a gentleman that has a heart of compassion for people coupled with the purpose of mind to execute and perform," said Natoya Walker Minor, BPACF Board President. "These characteristics have him in high demand as it is a known variable that when Randell is involved, there will be results. With everything he has achieved, he remains a gentleman and a Servant Leader that I am proud to salute as 2011 Black Professional of the Year."

McShepard has exercised leadership positions with United Way, The Sisters of Charity Foundation, the Workforce Investment Board, UNCF and the City Club. He also works closely with The St. Vincent Charity Medical Center and Business Volunteers Unlimited. Robin Williams, Executive Director of BPACF emphasizes

the importance of recognizing McShepard with this award saying, "It's important that students and young professionals are aware of examples of leadership and accomplishment in our community". "Black Professionals Association Charitable Foundation believes that through his years of service and dedication, Mr. McShepard is an excellent example of not only professional success, but evidence of his genuine impact on Northeast Ohio."

Additional professional affiliations include the Public Affairs Committee of the National Association of Manufacturers and the Government Affairs Committee of the American Coatings Association.

"The Black Professionals Association Charitable Foundation is one of the leading African American organizations in Cleveland and I am honored to be this year's award recipient," said McShepard. "This award speaks to the fact that with hard work, dedication and service we can all play a role in supporting and revitalizing this great city."

Mr. McShepard holds a dual bachelor's degree in Psychology and Communications from Baldwin-Wallace College and a Master's degree in Urban Studies from Cleveland State University. He is a graduate of Leadership Cleveland and a distinguished alumnus of Cleveland State University. He and his wife currently reside in Beachwood, Ohio.

#### **About Black Professionals Association Charitable Foundation**

*For over 30 years, the Black Professionals Association Charitable Foundation has distributed more than \$2.6 million in college scholarships to deserving African-American students and honored African American Leaders in Northeast Ohio. The scholarships, made possible through the Annual Scholarship and Awards Dinner, which has helped more than 600 students achieve their educational goals.*

*For more information, please contact the BPACF office at 216.229.7110 or visit the BPACF website at [www.bpacf.org](http://www.bpacf.org).*

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