



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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D5 COALITION ANNOUNCES INAUGURAL DIRECTOR

The Leadership Team of the D5 coalition has announced the appointment of Kelly Brown as its inaugural director. With more than 20 years of experience working on diversity, equity, and inclusion issues, Ms. Brown brings stellar credentials to the position. She will direct the implementation of the coalition's programs, manage relationships among key partners, and serve as a visible advocate on behalf of D5's mission to build a more diverse, equitable, and inclusive philanthropic sector.



"Kelly brings an amazing array of skills to this work," said Sterling Speirn, President and CEO of the W.K. Kellogg Foundation and one of D5's co-chairs. "Her experience in strategic design, fostering collaboration, and enabling innovation are all critical to the success of D5. She's worked in and around foundations, has deep program knowledge in multiple areas, and has demonstrated agility and versatility in nonprofit leadership here in the United States as well as transnational work. We are delighted to have her talents and commitment to this work helping to drive the critical agenda of D5 forward."

That agenda centers on four outcomes that the D5 coalition is working to achieve by 2015: (1) New foundation CEO, staff, and trustee appointments more closely reflect U.S. demographic trends; (2) More foundations take meaningful action to address diversity, equity, and inclusion issues in their organizations; (3) Annual funding for diverse communities increases substantially; (4) Philanthropy has the research capacity to be more transparent about progress on diversity, equity, and inclusion.

Ms. Brown was selected after an extensive national search. She's served as Director of Programs and Evaluation at the Marguerite Casey Foundation, Grants Director at the Vanguard Public Foundation, Administrative Director for TransAfrica/TransAfrica Forum and consultant to nonprofits, philanthropic organizations, and individuals working to strengthen underserved communities.

Members of D5's search committee noted Ms. Brown's experience with diversity issues, success in managing collaborations, a bias for execution, and familiarity with foundations as well as philanthropy's infrastructure organizations.

“Kelly is a natural and collaborative leader,” said Valerie Lies, President and CEO of the Donors Forum and a founding partner of the D5 coalition. “I’m impressed by the depth and breadth of her experience working in the diversity, inclusiveness and equity space within philanthropy. D5 will be well served by her vision for our sector on these issues and her commitment to collaborative work.”

Raised in Chicago, Ms. Brown received her M.B.A. from the Haas School of Business at the University of California, Berkeley; her undergraduate degree in sociology from the University of California, Santa Barbara; was a Sloan Fellow at Princeton University’s Woodrow Wilson School; and is now pursuing a Ph.D. at the University of Chicago, researching the intersection between leadership, organizations and contemporary social movements and applying network theory and tools to social movement dynamics.

“Kelly brings not only extraordinary depth and experience in the philanthropic sector but a rare fluency with the issues that D5 has taken on,” said Roger Doughty, Executive Director of the Horizons Foundation, also a founding partner of the D5 coalition. “She’s a leader, a thinker, a strategist, and, as she’s shown time and again, someone who gets things done. We’re very lucky to have her and could not be more excited by what’s next for D5.”

Ms. Brown joins the D5 coalition just as its preliminary work gets up to full speed. It recently released its *State of the Work 2011* report, the first in an annual series designed to map philanthropy’s landscape on diversity, equity, and inclusion and shape D5’s path forward. The coalition’s co-chairs—Stephen Heintz of the Rockefeller Brothers Fund, Robert Ross of The California Endowment, and Sterling Speirn of the W.K. Kellogg Foundation—wrote an opinion piece in the latest issue of *The Chronicle of Philanthropy* arguing that foundations can do better on diversity. And D5’s website, www.d5coalition.org, has just been launched. It features, among many resources, a Q&A with Ms. Brown on her views on the coalition and the diversity, equity, and inclusion issues it has been created to address.

Ms. Brown will work out of the Chicago office of Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors, which serves as D5’s program office.

“The D5 coalition is a powerful strategic alliance of organizations with connections to thousands of foundations around the country,” said Ms. Brown. “By coordinating the efforts of the broad range of organizations represented, this work has the potential to significantly deepen philanthropy’s ability to capitalize on the power of diverse leadership and to translate this into increased impact within the communities in which we invest. I’m excited and honored to be a part of this important effort.”

D5 is a five-year coalition to grow philanthropy’s diversity, equity, and inclusion. The coalition includes 18 philanthropy organizations—and counting—with connections to thousands of grantmakers. D5 coalition partners: Asian Americans/Pacific Islanders in Philanthropy; Associated Grantmakers; Association of Black Foundation Executives; Council of Michigan Foundations; Council on Foundations; Donors Forum; Foundation Center; Funders for LGBTQ Issues; Hispanics in Philanthropy; Horizons Foundation; Joint Affinity Groups; Minnesota Council on Foundations; Native Americans in Philanthropy; Ohio Grantmakers Forum; Philanthropy New York; Philanthropy Northwest; Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors; Women’s Funding Network.