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For More Information, contact:
Alisa Smith, COO, Bluford Healthcare Leadership Institute, (816) 404-3633
Laurie Scott Austin, Public Relations & Marketing (816) 404-3777

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Bluford Healthcare Leadership Institute concludes successful session

The Bluford Healthcare Leadership Institute (BHLI) recently completed its fourth annual summer seminar, preparing exceptional students to become leaders in the field of healthcare.

The BHLI is an intense, two-year professional development program founded by John W. Bluford, President Emeritus of Truman Medical Centers, former Board Chairman of the American Hospital Association, and a Fellow of the American College of Healthcare Executives (FACHE), as a way to use his more than 40 years in healthcare to develop the next generation of leaders with the ultimate goal of eliminating disparities in healthcare and healthcare leadership by creating a pipeline of talented, culturally sensitive leaders.

“The Institute is modeled after Harvard University’s mid-career executive management programs, with the intent of exposing undergraduate scholars to high level leaders from Healthcare, Business, Education and other fields,” Bluford said.

During the first year, scholars spend two weeks exposed to a comprehensive overview of today’s healthcare landscape, demonstrating the multiple possibilities for leadership roles and opportunities to succeed both within and without standard clinical areas. Through a series of local and national speaker presentations, experiential activities and site visits to healthcare organizations and entities, the BHLI challenges these young scholars to view leadership roles in the field of health as a potential career. During the second year of the program, scholars compete for summer internships in notable healthcare organizations across the country.

Each year scholars are selected through a competitive process with the top 14 scholars being admitted to the institute annually.

“The program’s content which includes a body of knowledge around health disparities, social determinants of health and their impact on health outcomes will benefit these young talented people 5-20 years into the future as they ascend to leadership roles in their chosen fields,” Bluford continued. “And their fellow Institute scholars will provide a professional network for life.”
Presenters at the 2016 BHLI included Kathleen Sebelius, former United States Secretary of Health and Human Services and Governor of the State of Kansas and President and Chief Executive Officer of Sebelius Resources, LLC and Richard Pollack, President and Chief Executive Officer of the America Hospital Association. They shared their personal journeys to success, lessons learned and the future of healthcare in America. Esther George, President and Chief Executive of the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City, also shared leadership principles with the future leaders.

Ruth Brinkley, FACHE, Senior Vice President, Catholic Health Initiatives, President and Chief Executive Officer, KentuckyOne Health and Nicholas Tejeda, FACHE, Chief Executive Officer of The Hospitals of Providence Transmountain Campus also addressed the scholars on characteristics of effective leadership and current issues in the field of healthcare.

Scholars visited Kansas City area corporations including Cerner Corporation, City of Kansas City Health Department, Swope Health Services, and Truman Medical Centers.

Scholars from the 2015 BHLI are currently continuing their leadership development while serving and being mentored in internships at the following locations: Duke University Hospital in Durham, NC; Integris Health in Oklahoma City, OK; KentuckyOne Health in Louisville, KY; Hennepin County Medical Center in Minneapolis, MN; Delta Dental in Minneapolis, MN; Cone Health in Greensboro, NC. In the Kansas City area 2015 scholars are currently interning at Saint Luke’s Health System, University of Kansas Hospital, JE Dunn Construction, Truman Medical Centers- Behavioral Health, and Blue Cross Blue Shield of Kansas City.

After completing their BHLI coordinated internships and undergraduate studies, scholars from the Institute’s earliest cohorts are well on their way to fulfilling their potential as healthcare leaders.

- Evan Bailey, 2014 BHLI Scholar and a recent Master’s in Business Administration graduate from Florida Agricultural Mechanical and University, interned at America’s Essential Hospitals in Washington DC in Summer 2015. Evan is currently serving at Henry Ford Health System (HFHS) in Detroit MI on the African American Initiative for Male Health Improvement (AIMHI) which provides Evan exposure to major key areas including community health outreach, operations, and insurance. Wright Lassiter, President of HFHS, regarding Evan Bailey’s work, “In addition to contributing his excellent business acumen to the business of keeping people healthy, Evan is putting his project management skills to work, and building on them – learning about managed care, community health, and health system operations, and applying much of the knowledge base he gained as a Bluford Healthcare Leadership scholar.”

- Jasmin Guzman, a 2014 BHLI Scholar and student at the University of Missouri-Kansas City School of Nursing, interned in Summer 2015 at Children’s Mercy Hospital (CMH). Based upon the successful completion of her internship, Jasmin continues working at CMH while completing her nursing studies.

- LaShaundra Everhart, a 2014 BHLI Scholar, interned at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in 2015. Based upon her exemplary performance
in her initial 12 week internship, LaShaundra was asked to continue at the CDC as a fellow through 2017. LaShaundra is also earning her Master’s in Public Health with a concentration in Health Promotion and Behavior at Georgia State.

- Raynard Ware, a 2014 BHLI Scholar, interned at Regional One Health in Memphis, TN in 2015 under the guidance of Reginald W. Coopwood, MD, President and Chief Executive Officer. After earning his business administration degree with an emphasis in finance from Morehouse College, Raynard began his healthcare career as an analyst at Triage Consulting, gaining a foundation to the financial workings of healthcare systems. Raynard will soon begin earning his Master’s in Healthcare Administration.

- Jazmin Richardson, a 2013 BHLI Scholar, interned at Desert Regional Medical Center in CA in 2014 under the guidance of Carolyn Caldwell, FACHE, President and Chief Executive Officer. Upon the recent completion of her undergraduate studies, Jazmin begins her healthcare career at Emory University Hospital in Atlanta, GA.

- Alexis Hawks, a 2013 BHLI Scholar, interned at Truman Medical Centers in Summer 2014, and is currently enrolled in the University Of Kansas School Of Medicine where she will also earn a Master’s in Public Health. Alexis’s interest in public health was piqued during her engagement in the 2013 Institute.

- Miriah Jones, a 2013 BHLI Scholar, interned in 2014 at America’s Essential Hospitals in Washington DC under the guidance of Bruce Siegel, MD, MPH, President and Chief Executive Officer. Upon her recent completion of nursing school, Miriah begins her journey in the field of healthcare at Methodist Hospital in Houston, TX.

**About the Bluford Healthcare Leadership Institute**
For more information about the BHLI, please view www.blufordinstitute.org