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### **Shawan Gabriel Receives Stanley Frank Class Award from Leadership North Carolina**

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*Raleigh* – Shawan Gabriel, president and chief executive officer of Big Brothers Big Sisters Services, Inc. in Winston-Salem and a member of LNC Class XXIII, was selected by his fellow Leadership North Carolina participants as the 2016 recipient of the Stanley Frank Class Award during the LNC Class XXIII Graduation and Awards Ceremony on May 13 at the North Carolina State Capitol.

The Stanley Frank Class Award is presented annually in honor of the late Stanley Frank, chair of the LNC founding committee, who gave his time, talents, and resources to make our state a better place to live and to work. Mr. Frank was a Greensboro businessman and a civic giant who was one of the earliest and strongest supporters of LNC. There are many organizations in the Greensboro community on which Stanley Frank left his mark. He was known as a compassionate, modest, and generous gentleman.

Mr. Frank was chairman and chief executive officer of Carolina By-Products. In addition to his corporate service, he chaired the Piedmont Triad Airport Authority, was a 36-year member of the Guilford College Board of Trustees, served as president of the United Community Services (now the United Way), chaired the Greensboro Chamber of Commerce, and served on the board of LNC until he passed on January 2, 2006.

The recipient of this annual award is a member of the current class of LNC. He or she is selected by fellow class members as someone who exemplifies the spirit of Stanley Frank. The Stanley Frank Class Award is presented during each class's graduation ceremony.

Mr. Gabriel's fellow LNC participants shared the following comments in nominating him for the Stanley Frank Class Award:

"Shawan quietly observes, seems to think deeply, and takes actions for the greater good of our state. I believe that Shawan has only scratched the surface in terms of the positive changes that he will drive; impacting education, opportunities for disenfranchised youth, exposure for those who have the means to improve the system, and influence in the business and academic communities."

"Quietly, diligently, and with respect for all, Shawan Gabriel challenges the assumption that some people are trapped by poverty in unhealthy spirals, unable to break free. Instead, he brings his whole self—his energy, experiences, knowledge, and strong leadership--to demonstrate another narrative, one of truth: that given the right mentors, resources, and skills, anyone in any situation can develop into a successful, engaged, and highly-productive member of a community and wider society."

Brenda Berg, president and chief executive officer of BEST NC and the 2015 recipient of the Stanley Frank Class Award, presented Mr. Gabriel with a Waterford eagle during the ceremony in the Old House Chamber of the North Carolina State Capitol. A North Carolina flag was flown over the North Carolina State Capitol in Mr. Gabriel's honor as a commemoration of his selection as the Stanley Frank Class Award recipient.

A roster of previous Stanley Frank Class Award recipients can be found [HERE](#).

### **About Leadership North Carolina**

Leadership North Carolina's mission is to inform, develop, and engage committed leaders by broadening their understanding of and involvement in issues and opportunities facing North Carolina. Each year, through a rigorous selection process, LNC chooses a diverse class of established and emerging leaders from across the state to participate in its acclaimed program. Leadership North Carolina's classes are made up of top leaders from the government, business, nonprofit, and education sectors.

Over the course of six two-and-a-half day sessions, LNC participants learn about issues critical to the state through discussions with top officials and professionals, field trips, and experiential learning activities. LNC's sessions focus on five key areas: economic development, education, environment, government, and health and human services. Through LNC's program, participants gain new insight into North Carolina's strengths and challenges and develop their own action plans for ways they can improve and empower their communities and the state as a whole.

The Leadership North Carolina program cultivates a network of individuals with diverse backgrounds and experiences who share a deep commitment to their state. There are more than 1000 graduates of the program whose continued ties to LNC and to one another provide them with rich opportunities for serving North Carolina. LNC is an independent, nonpartisan, 501 (c)(3) nonprofit.

To find out more about Leadership North Carolina, please visit: [www.leadershipnc.org](http://www.leadershipnc.org).

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