

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Contact: Katherine Williams / 804.601.4365

The Desiree Cooper Scholarship Support Architecture Exam Takers

WASHINGTON, DC. (July 25, 2022)—For the fifth year, The Desiree V. Cooper (DVC) Memorial Scholarship Foundation will award outstanding candidates a scholarship toward the cost of their expenses for the Architecture Registration Exam (ARE). This year, with increased financial support from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, the committee increased the monetary amount of each award to the full cost of one round of exams.

The jury, consisting of friends, colleagues and family of Desiree Cooper, commends all of the applicants

Awards will be given as follows:

The Black Women in Architecture award to **Breanna Booker**. The jury noted, her “work history with firms from high school to present shows dedication. Involvement with former high school shows commitment to giving back.”

The DC Memorial Award to **Zhetique Gunn**. The jury remarked that they “[loved] that she worked on a memorial park for Sandra Bland, [displaying] passion in action” and Gunn is an “eager collaborator, promoter of elimination of inequities.”

The Harrisburg Memorial Award to **Kwesi Daniels**. The jury wrote that Daniels displayed “undeniable commitment and passion for architecture and amazing accomplishments” and had a “great sense of purpose to lead HBCU students to licensure.”

The NOMA award to **Carmen Maria Martinez**. The jury felt that she is a “dedicated individual that goes the extra mile in the workplace and also to assist fellow architects with test-taking.”

We wish all of the awardees and applicants much success as they works toward completing the licensure process and advancing in the architecture profession.

The DVC Memorial Scholarship Foundation is committed to increasing the number of minority licensed architects. The committee thanks everyone who donated to support the scholarship and the jury for their time. We look forward to continuing our impact and offerings by increasing financial support and resources for future architects.

About The DVC Memorial Scholarship Foundation

The DVC Memorial Scholarship Foundation seeks to honor the life and legacy of Desiree Cooper by championing the things she was passionate about in her professional career and personal endeavors: providing continual service to her communities and encouraging minorities and women in the advancement of their careers in architecture. Since 2018, The Foundation has awarded DVC Scholarships in these categories: The Black Women in Architecture Award, The Harrisburg Memorial Award, The DC Memorial Award, and the NOMA award. The Washington DC Alumnae Foundation Inc supports administration of the Robert Wood Johnson grants funds. The NOMA Foundation has served as the fiscal sponsor of the program.

###

Please email DVCscholarship@gmail.com or go to <http://bwa-network.com/dvc-memorial-scholarship/> to donate or more information.