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**Colin Kaepernick, Dave Chappelle Among Recipients of Harvard University's
Hutchins Center for African & African American Research Honors 2018 W. E. B.
Du Bois Medalists**

Sept. 17, 2018—Cambridge, Mass.— Athlete and activist Colin Kaepernick and comedian Dave Chappelle will be among eight recipients of the W. E. B. Du Bois Medal at the sixth annual Hutchins Center Honors presented by the Hutchins Center for African & African American Research at Harvard University. Kenneth I. Chenault, chairman and a managing director of General Catalyst; Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute President Shirley Ann Jackson; philanthropist and founder of Avid Partners, LLC, Pamela J. Joyner; psychologist and author Florence C. Ladd; Bryan Stevenson, founder and executive director of the Equal Justice Initiative and the National Memorial for Peace and Justice and the Legacy Museum; and artist Kehinde Wiley will also receive DuBois Medals. The ceremony will take place on Thurs., Oct. 11, 2018 at 4 p.m. in Sanders Theatre, Memorial Hall, 45 Quincy St., Cambridge, Mass.

The medal honors those who have made significant contributions to African and African American history and culture, and more broadly, individuals who advocate for intercultural understanding and human rights in an increasingly global and interconnected world.

Henry Louis Gates Jr., Alphonse Fletcher University Professor and director of the Hutchins Center, said, “In the year of the 150th anniversary of his birth, W. E. B. Du Bois would be proud of the eight individuals being recognized at this year’s Hutchins Center Honors. Emerging from a variety of backgrounds and professions, each represents the quest for knowledge, freedom of expression, and pursuit of truth that are foundational to black history and culture, and that were foundational to Du Bois as a thinker and activist.”

Glenn H. Hutchins, co-founder of North Island and chairman of the National Advisory Board of the Hutchins Center, said, “The Hutchins Center Honors celebrates the innovators and trailblazers who seek, each in their own way, to nudge the arc of

history toward justice. The W. E. B. Du Bois Medalists who will be on this year's stage at Sanders Theatre have all had an outsized impact for the better on our society, our nation and even our world. It will be a privilege to be among them."

Comedian, actor and producer **Dave Chappelle** may be best known for his comedy show on Comedy Central (*Chappelle's Show*) and, more recently, for his comedy specials on Netflix, but he has also had a career in acting and producing. He has appeared in several movies, including *Robin Hood: Men in Tights*, *The Nutty Professor*, *Con Air*, and *Undercover Brother*. His first lead role was in *Half Baked*, which he co-wrote. He also starred in *Buddies*, an ABC-TV series. He can be seen now in the 2018 film *A Star Is Born*, with Bradley Cooper and Lady Gaga.

Chappelle has received numerous accolades and awards, including several NAACP Image Awards, a BET Comedy Award (*Chappelle's Show*), a 2018 Grammy Award for Best Comedy Album, and two Prime Time Emmy Awards: Outstanding Guest Actor in a Comedy Series (*Saturday Night Live*), and Outstanding Variety Special (Pre-Recorded) for *Dave Chappelle: Equanimity*. *Rolling Stone* ranked him number nine in their list of 50 Best Stand Up Comics of All Time, and he was called a "comic genius" by *Esquire* magazine.

Kenneth I. Chenault is chairman and a managing director of the venture capital firm, General Catalyst. Prior to that, he was chairman and chief executive officer of American Express Company, a position he held from 2001 to 2018. He joined American Express in 1981 as director of strategic planning and served subsequently in a number of increasingly senior positions, including vice chairman and president and chief operating officer, until his appointment as CEO. Under his leadership, American Express built one of the world's largest customer loyalty programs – Membership Rewards – and earned global recognition as a leader in customer service.

Chenault is recognized as an expert on brands and brand management and has been honored by multiple publications including *Fortune* magazine, which named him as one of the world's 50 Greatest Leaders in its inaugural list in 2014. He serves on the boards of Airbnb, Facebook, IBM, The Procter & Gamble Company, the Harvard

Corporation and numerous nonprofit organizations, including the Smithsonian Institution's Advisory Council for the National Museum of African American History and Culture, the National September 11 Memorial & Museum, and Bloomberg Philanthropies. He also serves on the board of trustees for New York University Langone Health.

Chenault holds a JD from Harvard Law School and a BA in history from Bowdoin College. He has also received honorary degrees from several universities and awards from a wide variety of civic, social service, and community organizations.

Shirley Ann Jackson is president of Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, the oldest technological research university in the United States. Described by Time magazine as “perhaps the ultimate role model for women in science,” Jackson has held senior leadership positions in academia, government, industry, and research. A theoretical physicist, Jackson holds an S.B. in Physics, and a Ph.D. in Theoretical Elementary Particle Physics, both from Massachusetts Institute Technology. She also holds 53 honorary degrees.

In September 2014, President Barack Obama appointed Jackson co-chair of the President's Intelligence Advisory Board, where she served until January 2017, and in 2016 he awarded her the National Medal of Science. She also served on the U.S. Secretary of State International Security Advisory Board, 2011-2017, and the U.S. Secretary of Energy Advisory Board, 2013-2017. From 2009 to 2014, Jackson served on the President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology (PCAST), and, as part of PCAST, was co-chair of the President's Innovation and Technology Advisory Committee (PITAC).

Before taking the helm at Rensselaer, Jackson was chair of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), 1995-1999. During her tenure at the NRC, she spearheaded the formation of the International Nuclear Regulators Association (INRA), and served as its chair, 1997-1999.

Pamela J. Joyner has nearly 30 years of experience in the investment industry. She is the founder of Avid Partners, LLC, where her expertise has been the alternative

investment arena. Currently, Joyner is focused on her philanthropic interests in the arts and education.

Joyner is a trustee of The Art Institute of Chicago and the J. Paul Getty Trust, chair of the Tate Americas Foundation, and a member of the Tate International Council and the Tate North America Acquisitions Committee. She is also a member of the Director's Circle of the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art and a member of the Modern and Contemporary Art Visiting Committee of the Metropolitan Museum of Art. In the education arena, Joyner serves on the board of the Art & Practice Foundation.

Previously, Joyner's philanthropic involvements have included serving as a member on President Obama's Committee on the Arts and Humanities; a trustee of Dartmouth College and chair of the Investment Committee; a trustee of the New York City Ballet; a board member of the School of American Ballet; a trustee and co-chair of the San Francisco Ballet Association; a Board Member of the MacDowell Colony; and a trustee of the Asian Art Museum as well as other arts and educational organizations. She holds an MBA from Harvard.

Colin Kaepernick, an athlete and activist, is perhaps best known for his protest against racial injustice by taking a knee rather than standing during the playing of the national anthem while he was the quarterback with the San Francisco 49ers. For his Million Dollar Pledge, Kaepernick donated \$1,000,000 to organizations working in oppressed communities fighting for social justice. He then followed those donations up with his #10for10 and #10for10Encore pledges, using his platform to encourage other celebrities to match his donations raising an additional \$400,000 for organizations fighting for justice - for a grand total of \$1,400,000 to various charities. And in a recent highly publicized endorsement deal with Nike, "Believe in Something. Even if it Means Sacrificing Everything", the company has agreed to donate to Kaepernick's "Know Your Rights" non-profit organization. An organization he founded to empower youth in their community and teach them various ways to interact with law enforcement as well as self-empowerment, health, finance, tech and motivation.

As a quarterback for the University of Nevada, Reno, Kaepernick was twice named the Western Athletic Conference offensive player of the year. He was a second-

round draft pick by the 49ers and took them to two NFC Championships and the Super Bowl. In 2016, his teammates voted him as the winner of the Len Eshmont Award as the 49ers player who best exemplifies the inspirational and courageous play of Len Eshmont. The award is considered the most prestigious team honor on which players vote. In addition to his prowess on the football field, he was an outstanding baseball pitcher. He was drafted by the Chicago Cubs in 2009, but decided to stay at the University of Nevada, Reno as the quarterback. While in high school in California, Kaepernick finished his senior year with a 4.5 GPA and played football, basketball and baseball. In his senior year, he was nominated for California All-State selection in all three sports.

In 2017, Kaepernick was named *GQ* Magazine's "Citizen of the Year." "Colin Kaepernick's determined stand puts him in rare company in sports history: Muhammad Ali, Jackie Robinson—athletes who risked everything to make a difference," the magazine declared. In December 2017, he received the *Sports Illustrated* Muhammad Ali Legacy Award, the ACLU's Eason Monroe Courageous Advocate Award and The Puffin/Nation Institute's Prize for Creative Citizenship. Most recently in April 2018, he received Amnesty International's Ambassador of Conscience Award, an elite global award that celebrates the spirit of activism and exceptional courage.

Florence C. Ladd, author, social critic, and psychologist, is a fiction writer. Her novel *Sarah's Psalm* (Scribner, 1996) received the 1997 Literary Award for Fiction from the American Library Association's Black Caucus. Ladd's short stories have appeared in *The Golden Horn* and *Ragtime*. Her novel, *The Spirit of Josephine*, inspired by the legend of Josephine Baker was published in 2014 (Independent), and *Reclaiming Rose: A Suite of Poems* appeared in 2015 (Finishing Line Press). She also has written several nonfiction and research works. She co-authored the book *Different Strokes* (Westview Press, 1979). Her recent nonfiction works are included in *A Stranger in the Village* (Griffin and Fish, eds.), *Grandmothers: Granddaughters Remember* (Marguerite Bouvard, ed.), and *Dutiful Daughters* (Jean Gould, ed.), and *Is That Your Child?: Mothers Talk about Rearing Biracial Children* (Lexington Books, 2008), co-authored by Marion Kilson. Her essay "On Being Daddy's Son and Daughter" was published in

Father (Claudia O'Keefe, ed.). She also contributed to *At Grandmother's Table* (Ellen Perry Berkeley, ed.).

Educated at Howard University (B.S.) and the University of Rochester (Ph.D.), she has had an extensive career as a teacher and administrator. She has taught at Simmons College, Robert College, the American College for Girls in Istanbul, the Harvard Graduate School of Education, and the Harvard Graduate School of Design. From 1989 to 1997, she was director of the Bunting Institute at Harvard University, a multidisciplinary center for women in higher education. In 1998, she taught a fiction writing workshop at the Women's Institute for Continuing Education in Paris. She has held fellowships at the Bunting Institute and the W.E.B. DuBois Institute at Harvard University, has been a resident fellow at the MacDowell Colony, and has been awarded several honorary degrees. She has served on the boards of Bentley College, Hampshire College, Boston's Institute of Contemporary Art, and is an Honorary Overseer of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, and honorary member of the American Institute of Architects. Her art collection includes works by many notable African American artists. *Mirabella Magazine's* June 1994 issue featured Florence Ladd among 100 Fearless Women. As director of the Bunting Institute, "Ladd nurtures talent before the rest of the world even notices it."

Bryan Stevenson is the founder and executive director of the Equal Justice Initiative (EJI) in Montgomery, Ala. Under his leadership, EJI has won major legal challenges eliminating excessive and unfair sentencing, exonerating innocent death row prisoners, confronting abuse of the incarcerated and the mentally ill and aiding children prosecuted as adults. Stevenson recently won a historic ruling in the U.S. Supreme Court banning mandatory life-without-parole sentences for all children 17 or younger. He is a graduate of the Harvard Law School and has been awarded 34 honorary doctorate degrees. He is the author of award winning and New York Times bestseller, *Just Mercy*.

In April 2018, EJI opened *The Legacy Museum: From Enslavement to Mass Incarceration*, built on the site in downtown Montgomery where enslaved people were once warehoused. This is a companion to a national memorial to victims of lynching, *The National Memorial for Peace and Justice*, which opened at the same time.

Kehinde Wiley has firmly situated himself within art history's portrait painting tradition. He engages the signs and visual rhetoric of the heroic, powerful, majestic and

the sublime in his representation of urban, black and brown men and women found throughout the world. By applying the visual vocabulary and conventions of glorification, history, wealth and prestige to the subject matter drawn from the urban fabric, the subjects and stylistic references for his paintings are juxtaposed inversions of each other, forcing ambiguity and provocative perplexity to pervade his imagery.

Wiley holds a BFA from San Francisco Art Institute, an MFA from Yale University, and an honorary doctorate from Rhode Island School of Design. His paintings are in the collections of over 40 museums including the National Portrait Gallery, Washington, D.C.; the Los Angeles County Museum of Art; the Hammer Museum, Los Angeles; the Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles; the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York; and the Brooklyn Museum. Wiley was recently the subject of the documentary, *An Economy of Grace* (2014, Show of Force).

Wiley was honored in 2015 by the US Department of State with the Medal of Arts award, celebrating his commitment to cultural diplomacy through the visual arts. In February 2018, his portrait of Barack Obama was added to the permanent installation of presidential portraits in the Smithsonian's National Portrait Gallery.

The Hutchins Center at Harvard includes the W. E. B. Du Bois Research Institute; the Ethelbert Cooper Gallery of African & African American Art; the Hiphop Archive & Research Institute; the Afro-Latin American Research Institute; the Project on Race & Cumulative Adversity; the Project on Race & Gender in Science & Medicine; the History Design Studio; the Image of the Black Archive & Library; the Jazz Research Initiative; and two publications, *Transition* and the *Du Bois Review*.

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Note to media: All media will be required to be credentialed. Due to limited space, media must submit in writing applications for credentials by Mon., Oct. 1 at 4:00 PM. Media requesting credentials should submit their applications to media@harvard.edu. Media will be informed of approved credentials on Mon. Oct. 8.