

THE ARTHUR M. BLANK FAMILY FOUNDATION

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THE ARTHUR M. BLANK FAMILY FOUNDATION APPOINTS FORMER TEACH FOR AMERICA DIRECTOR AS FOSTERING OPPORTUNITY PROGRAM OFFICER

ATLANTA, GA (March 2, 2015) ----- The Arthur M. Blank Family Foundation announced today that Teach for America Admissions Managing Director of Diversity and Strategy Ayana Gabriel has been named Program Officer – Fostering Opportunity for the organization. Beginning on March 3, Gabriel will develop and implement pre-K through 16 education program strategies.

“Providing high quality education to all students is at the core of Ayana’s work and passion,” said John Bare, Vice President – Programs of The Arthur M. Blank Family Foundation. “Her dedication to student achievement and teacher excellence will elevate the work we are doing in education.”

Gabriel joins The Arthur M. Blank Family Foundation from Teach for America where she consulted on diversity and equity initiatives, conducting professional development around diversity for the Admission team and developing strategic plans for the organization.

Prior to her most recent post as Admissions Managing Director of Diversity and Strategy, Gabriel served in various roles with Teach for America, including Managing Director of Programs, where she worked hands-on with teachers around Metro Atlanta to provide the highest level of readiness training and instruction. She also brings experience as a former secondary science classroom teacher.

Gabriel also serves as the President of the Westview Community Organization and is a Committee Member of the Atlanta Beltline Tax Allocation District Advisory Committee.

Gabriel earned bachelor’s degrees in Chemistry and Chemical Engineering through a dual degree program with Spelman College and Georgia Institute of Technology. She also received her Secondary Science Education Certification from Mercer University.

“I am incredibly excited to work towards expanding education opportunities for children in Metro Atlanta. As a former educator and community leader, I believe it is important that we invest in our city’s best resource, our youth.”

About The Arthur M. Blank Family Foundation

Formed in 1995, The Arthur M. Blank Family Foundation promotes innovative solutions to transform the lives of youth and their families, seeking results that move communities beyond what seems possible today.

The Foundation invests in early childhood development, education, green space and the arts, and leads giving programs for each of the Blank Family of Businesses, including the Atlanta Falcons, PGA TOUR

Superstore, Mountain Sky Guest Ranch and MLS Atlanta. Mr. Blank, chairman of the foundation, co-founded The Home Depot, the world's largest home improvement retailer, in 1978 and retired from the company as co-chairman in 2001. Through the foundation and his family's personal giving, Mr. Blank has granted nearly \$300 million to various charitable organizations.

For more information about The Arthur M. Blank Family Foundation, visit www.blankfoundation.org or follow us on Twitter at @blankfoundation.