

For Immediate Release

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The Arthur M. Blank Family Foundation Announces December Speaker Series Event

New York Times Bestselling Author, Wes Moore, and Participants from American Explorers Program to Share Inspiring Stories of Leadership

ATLANTA (December 2, 2014) – On Thursday, December 4, 2014, The Arthur M. Blank Family Foundation Speaker Series will host an event on youth leadership featuring *New York Times* bestselling author, Wes Moore, and participants from the American Explorers program. The event will be held at The Arthur M. Blank Family Office in Atlanta.

The Speaker Series program, “Runways to Leadership: *Preparing young leaders for the challenges ahead,*” will introduce [Wes Moore](#), youth advocate, Army combat veteran, social entrepreneur and bestselling author of “*The Other Wes Moore;*” along with young leaders from Atlanta who participated in the first year of The Arthur M. Blank Family Foundation’s [American Explorers](#) program, a 20-day summer wilderness experience in Emigrant, Montana that offers young men and women of high school age the opportunity to explore their potential as leaders. Together, they will share their personal stories of leadership and reflect on the ways we can all bring out the potential that lives within every young man and woman to make their tomorrow better than it is today.

The event is by invitation only. Seating at the event is limited. For more information, please contact Debbie Montgomery at DMontgomery@ambfo.com.

About Wes Moore:

Born in 1978, Wes and his sisters were raised by their widowed mother. Despite early academic and behavioral struggles, he graduated Phi Theta Kappa in 1998 as a commissioned officer from Valley Forge Military College, and Phi Beta Kappa from Johns Hopkins University in 2001, where he also played football and earned a bachelor’s degree in International Relations. He then became a Rhodes Scholar, studying International Relations at Oxford University.

After his studies, Wes, a paratrooper and Captain in the United States Army, served a combat tour of duty in Afghanistan with the 1st Brigade of the 82nd Airborne Division. Wes then served as a White House Fellow to Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice. He serves on the board of the Iraq Afghanistan Veterans of America (IAVA), Johns Hopkins University, and founded an organization called STAND! that works with Baltimore youth involved in the criminal justice system.

For additional information on Wes Moore, please visit <http://theotherwesmoore.com/>.

About American Explorers:

American Explorers is a newly created, non-profit organization created and sponsored by The Arthur M. Blank Family Foundation. The American Explorers program is designed to inspire and educate young men and women from both Atlanta and Montana to be effective leaders, educators, community-builders, entrepreneurs, and stewards of the earth. The program begins with a 20-day, expedition-based, summer leadership experience in Paradise Valley, Montana. Following the initial summer experience, students continue to develop their skills during the school year and in subsequent summers as part of a four-year leadership development journey.

For more information on American Explorers, please visit <https://www.facebook.com/americanexplorers1>.

About The Arthur M. Blank Family Foundation Speaker Series:

By convening individuals around issues, innovations and ideas that will shape the quality of life for families in Atlanta and beyond, the Blank Family Foundation Speaker Series aspires to spur civic action and citizen involvement for positive change in people's lives.

Learn more at <http://blankfoundation.org/speaker-series>.