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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Thurgood Marshall College Fund Honors New Jersey Role Models
at its 14th Annual Awards of Excellence**

Washington, DC – (March 4, 2014) For the 14th consecutive year, the Thurgood Marshall College Fund (TMCF) will host its Annual Awards of Excellence (AOE) dinner for the Newark, New Jersey community at Nanina's in the Park on Thursday, March 13, 2014 beginning 6:00 p.m. announced TMCF President & CEO Johnny C. Taylor, Jr. Early lead sponsors include NJ Resources, The North Ward Center, GIBBONS and McCarter & English.

The Dinner Committee, chaired by Anthony P. LaRocco, Esq. of K&L Gates and Susan A. Feeney, Esq. of McCarter & English, has planned an event that will celebrate the achievements of individuals who positively impact the lives of our future leaders. This important event celebrates individuals who have achieved excellence in their chosen fields and/or who exemplify Justice Thurgood Marshall's commitment to justice, civil rights and education.

As a premier event for TMCF, the Awards of Excellence events honor community leaders in select markets for their professional and civic excellence, as well as their contributions to education and diversity. The 2014 Awardees include Adrienne Davis, Co-Founder/Executive Director, The North Ward Center; Patrick C. Dunican Jr., Esq., Chairman and Managing Director, GIBBONS; Kevin H. Marino, Esq., Founder/Principal, Marino, Tortorella & Boyle; The Honorable Michael A. Shipp, United States District Judge for the District of New Jersey; with a special posthumous tribute to Philip Thigpen, Sr., Immediate Past Chairman, Essex County Democratic Committee.

The TMCF AOE programs were created in 2000 to recognize those distinguished individuals in a specific geographic location who serve as role models through their significant achievement in a chosen field, through community service, or by exemplifying Justice Thurgood Marshall's commitment to justice, civil rights and education. These events have raised \$1.7 million over the past 13 years and are annual reminders of Justice Marshall's legacy. By celebrating like-minded leaders, partnerships are forged by the AOE honorees and sponsors to support the students at TMCF's member-schools that include public Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), medical schools and law schools.

"It is vital that we pay tribute to the many leaders within our community," said Taylor. "Change agents, like our awardees, are role models who are helping the next generation become future leaders. We look forward to celebrating their accomplishments and leadership!"

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About the Thurgood Marshall College Fund

TMCF is named for the U.S. Supreme Court's first African-American Justice. Established in 1987, TMCF supports and represents nearly 300,000 students attending its 47 member-schools that include public Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), medical schools and law schools nation-wide and in the U.S. Virgin Islands. Through its scholarships and programs, TMCF plays a key role in preparing the leaders of tomorrow. TMCF is a 501(c) (3) tax-exempt, charitable organization. For more information about TMCF and its initiatives, visit www.ThurgoodMarshallCollegeFund.org.