

ANNUAL AIRPORT BUSINESS DIVERSITY CONFERENCE
THE MAGIC OF FLIGHT

JUNE 16-20, 2017 | HOUSTON, TEXAS

For Immediate Release

Media Contact:
Shahara Anderson-Davis
Airport Minority Advisory Council
shahara.anderson-davis@amac-org.com
202.486.8710

AMAC to Honor the Women of *Hidden Figures* at Annual Conference

Dr. Christine Darden and family of Dorothy Vaughan, Mary Jackson and Katherine Johnson will attend.

Washington, DC (May 11, 2017) – The Airport Minority Advisory Council (AMAC) is proud to announce that the women and/or their family members featured in the award-winning book and blockbuster movie *Hidden Figures* will be honored guests at the AMAC's Annual Business Diversity Conference: The Magic of Flight on June 16-20 in Houston, Texas.

Hidden Figures is a 2016 film based on the nonfiction book of the same name by Margot Lee Shetterly about previously unknown African American female mathematicians or “human computers” who worked at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) during the Space Race.

AMAC is a 33 year old nonprofit organization whose mission is to promote the inclusion of minorities and women in employment and contracting opportunities throughout the aviation industry.

“The theme of our 33rd Annual Conference is *The Magic of Flight*, says AMAC's President & CEO Krystal Brumfield. “We believe that nothing represents this magic and our organization's mission more emphatically than the contributions of these women to both space flight and aeronautic design.”

Dorothy Vaughan, played by Octavia Spencer in the movie, was the head of the West Area Computing Unit from 1949 until 1958. She was both a respected mathematician and NASA's first African American manager. Her eldest daughter Ann Hammond will attend to accept an award on her behalf.

Katherine Johnson, played by Taraji P. Henson, is a physicist and mathematician who made contributions to the United States' aeronautics and space programs with the early application of

AIRPORT MINORITY ADVISORY COUNCIL

P.O. Box 71560, Washington, DC 20024 | 703-414-2622 | www.amac-org.com

ANNUAL AIRPORT BUSINESS DIVERSITY CONFERENCE

THE MAGIC OF FLIGHT

digital electronic computers at NASA. Known for accuracy in computerized celestial navigation, she conducted technical work at NASA that spanned decades. She will be represented at the conference by her daughter Joylett Hylick.

Mary Jackson, played by Janelle Monae, was a mathematician and aerospace engineer at NASA. She worked at Langley Research Center in Hampton, Virginia, for most of her career. She started as a computer at the segregated West Area Computing division. She took advanced engineering classes and in 1958 became NASA's first black female engineer. She will be represented at the conference by her granddaughter Wanda Jackson.

Christine Mann Darden, who came to NASA five years after the three women portrayed in the movie, was featured in the book. She is a mathematician, data analyst, and aeronautical engineer who devoted much of her 40-year career in aerodynamics at NASA to researching supersonic flight and sonic booms. She will attend the conference.

The women will attend a Hidden Figures Jazz Brunch on June 18th, the Catalyst Awards and Scholarship Luncheon on June 19th and the Women in Aviation Breakfast on June 20th at the Marriott Marquis Houston.

For more information on sponsorship opportunities or to register for the conference, please visit <http://amacbusinessdiversityconference.com/>.

###

About the Airport Minority Advisory Council (AMAC)

AMAC's mission is to promote the inclusion of minorities and women in employment and contracting opportunities throughout the aviation industry. Since 1984, AMAC has been at the forefront of nearly every national policy initiative impacting the participation of disadvantaged businesses in airport contracting. AMAC works consistently with congress, the federal government, aviation trade associations and others as a resource for information, education, and guidance on business and employment matters. For information on events, legislative updates and current aviation industry news visit www.amac-org.com or call 703-414-2622.