FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WFGM Brings Top Google Executive to Memphis for Annual Tribute Luncheon
Announcing 2018 Legends Award Recipients

Hailed as one of the most critical young voices of our time, globally recognized executive, influencer and community leader Valeisha Butterfield Jones will keynote the Women’s Foundation for a Greater Memphis’ (WFGM) 2018 Annual Tribute Luncheon.

As Global Head of Women & Black Community Engagement for Google and the co-founder and CEO of the Women in Entertainment Empowerment Network (WEEN), Jones will bring her relevant commentary on youth and women’s issues to The Annual Tribute Luncheon on April 26, 2018 from 11:30 a.m.-1:15 p.m. at the Memphis Cook Convention Center.

As one of WFGM’s signature fundraising events, The Annual Tribute Luncheon assembles more than 2,000 city leaders, business executives, public and private foundations, and non-profits from the Memphis community to celebrate a legacy of philanthropy, leadership and collaboration. All proceeds benefit Vision 2020, a strategic plan to reduce poverty by five percent over five years in the 38126 zip code.

Jones is a trail blazer set out to diversify tech and a woman to watch as she, “Makes Major Boss Moves” at Google. Appointed to her new position at Google in January, she will lead the organization in a worldwide effort to enhance equal opportunities for women and African Americans at the company through recruitment and retention. She is also the co-founder and CEO of the Women in Entertainment Empowerment Network (WEEN), the world’s leading non-profit organization committed to supporting the balanced, positive portrayal of women in entertainment and society. Over the last decade, WEEN has impacted over 80,000 young women through leadership development and career placement programs and shifted the narrative of women of color in media, business and the community-at-large.

“We are thrilled to welcome to Memphis a speaker who is a top leader in business, distinguishing herself in both the tech and entertainment fields, with a strong grassroots community engagement background. Valeisha’s varying roles as a leader in non-traditional fields for women, activist and philanthropist, exemplifies WFGM’s goal to advance the leadership of young women and girls, to promote diversity, and amplify power in women’s leadership,” Ruby Bright, Executive Director/CAO of WFGM said.
WFGM will also recognize local women’s leadership and impact in the month of April during the 2018 Legends Award Reception on April 12, 2018 from 6:00-8:00 p.m. at The Columns at One Commerce Square. For almost a decade WFGM’s Annual Legends Award has paid tribute to women who have mastered their fields and used their knowledge and skills to better the community. WFGM is proud to announce our 2018 Honorees in the categories of Catalyst, Innovation, and Philanthropy and Leadership.

The Catalyst Award is given to a visionary that demonstrates selfless dedication to creating positive change in the community. The 2018 recipient is Associate Pastor of First Congregational Church, Rev. Sonia Louder Walker for her life-long commitment to help end hunger in the community.

The Innovation Award is given to a role model that has had a significant impact on advancing not only their own institutional interests, but also the broader interests of the community. The 2018 recipient is retired CEO of Baptist Memorial Hospital for Women, Anita S. Vaughn for her trailblazing career making quality healthcare more accessible for women and their families.

The Philanthropy and Leadership Award is given to a humanitarian who has demonstrated leadership through community service including civic, cultural, and economic engagement. The 2018 recipient is President of the Lichterman Lowenburg Foundation, Fredrika “Freddi” Felt for her dedication to supporting youth services, education, the Jewish community and other agencies whose work brings about lasting improvements in Memphis.

Nominated by their peers, each year honorees are paired with an artist and a writer who collaborate to create original art and prose to represent the awardees’ life and community impact. The Legends Award art and writing tours the Mid-South before going on permanent display at The Hall of Legends in the Baptist Memorial Hospital for Women.

The art and prose will be unveiled for the first time to honorees’, their families, and the community at the Legends Award Reception. The presenting sponsor is Baptist Memorial Health Care. The venue sponsor is Caesar’s Entertainment.

Tickets to the Annual Tribute Luncheon and Legends Award Reception can be purchased at www.wfgm.org. To schedule an interview with Valeisha Butterfield Jones, the Legends Award honorees, or a representative of the Women’s Foundation for a Greater Memphis, contact Erica Horton, WFGM Marketing and Communications Specialist at ericahorton@wfgm.org.

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For more than 20 years, The Women’s Foundation for a Greater Memphis has been uniting women and helping to break the cycle of poverty through our philanthropy, leadership and collaboration. Our mission is to encourage philanthropy, foster leadership among women and support programs that enable women and children to reach their full potential.