



**The PhD Project Announces 2023 Hall of Fame Inductees**  
*Honorees Represent Marketing, Management and Accounting Disciplines*

**MONTVALE, NJ (September 19, 2023)** – [The PhD Project](#) – a non-profit organization aimed at diversifying college business schools and, ultimately, the business world – has welcomed three new inductees into its Hall of Fame ranks: **Dr. Sonya Grier**, Professor of Marketing at Kogod School of Business at American University; **Dr. Laquita Blockson**, Professor of Management; and **Dr. Theresa Hammond**, Professor of Accounting and Senior Assistant Dean for Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging in the Lam Family College of Business at San Francisco State University.

Since 2011, The PhD Project has recognized individuals for their outstanding work as mentors and educators to the next generation of business professionals and as diversity and inclusion trailblazers on their campuses. Hall of Fame inductees have shown an unwavering commitment to The PhD Project's mission to create a stronger, more diverse workforce, and have exhibited thoughtful leadership that has significantly impacted The Project's network of business doctoral students and faculty.

“Our 2023 Hall of Fame inductees show the strength and long-time commitment to our diversity efforts,” said Blane Ruschak, president of The PhD Project. “Sonya, Laquita and Theresa have all worked from their own unique perspectives to bring parity to our college campuses, inspiring countless business students along the way. We could not think of three individuals more deserving to be welcomed into The PhD Project Hall of Fame this year.”

**Dr. Sonya Grier** is known as a champion of proactive diversity business as Professor of Marketing at Kogod School of Business at American University. She is an interdisciplinary scholar with diverse expertise across private, government, and non-profit sectors. Bringing policy experience from her two years at the Federal Trade Commission, and practical industry experience in market research, brand management and marketing consulting, she has published research in leading marketing, psychology, public health and policy journals. Along with her work with The PhD Project, she is a co-founder of the Race in the Marketplace (RIM) Research Network, which works to collaboratively advance our understanding of the role of race across diverse market domains. She has served on dozens of other boards pertaining to advertising, consumer affairs, public policy, health and marketing. She received her PhD in marketing, with a minor in social psychology, from Northwestern University.

**Dr. Laquita Blockson** touts her connection to The PhD Project, its partners - AACSB’s Aspiring Leaders Program and the Women in Business Education [WiBE] Network - for ultimately

inspiring her to set her sights on becoming a dean. Now she can influence the curricula and steer a body of faculty, students and staff in a direction that empowers students and embodies The Project's goals. Dr. Blockson was the Founding Faculty Director of Social Innovation and an Associate Professor of Business Management at Agnes Scott College in Decatur, Georgia. She also previously served on the faculties of various institutions around the country, including Florida International University and Northern Iowa University. Dr. Blockson worked for well-known corporations – Taco Bell, AT&T and LG&E Energy Corporation – before earning her Doctor of Philosophy in strategy, environment and organizations from the University of Pittsburgh.

**Dr. Theresa Hammond** is currently Professor of Accounting and Senior Assistant Dean for Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging in the Lam Family College of Business at San Francisco State University, but her research into diversity and accounting provided one of the original scholarly sparks for The PhD Project. Dozens of publications later, she believes The PhD Project remains strong because it has played the long game of putting faculty in place on college campuses who can make a difference for decades for their students. She continues to research, write and teach about the underrepresentation of African Americans, Latinos and LBGTQI+ individuals across the accounting field. She has also extensively studied the accounting industry in South Africa, making a global impact. In addition to The PhD Project, Dr. Hammond belongs to the National Association of Black Accountants and the Association of Latino Professionals for America. She earned her PhD in accounting from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 1990.

### **About The PhD Project**

Founded in 1994, [The PhD Project](http://www.phdproject.org) works to increase diversity in the business world. Through its unique model, the nonprofit organization's Black/African American, Latinx/Hispanic American and Native American members pursue business PhDs with the intent to become university faculty, teaching and guiding students who aspire to a career in business. Since its launch, The Project has been responsible for sextupling the number of underrepresented professors, administrators and academic leaders at an extensive list of academic programs, helping more than 1,700 former business professionals and undergraduate students attain their doctoral degree. The PhD Project also includes close to 250 students currently enrolled in a business PhD program. For more information on The PhD Project, webinars and sponsors visit [www.phdproject.org](http://www.phdproject.org) and follow the program on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#) and [LinkedIn](#).