



An Evening of Impact: 41st Annual Kaitz Dinner Raises Over \$1.1M to Further Diversity and Inclusion in Media and Entertainment

Washington, DC – October 30, 2024 - The NCTA Education Foundation raised more than \$1.1 million at the 41st annual Kaitz Dinner held last Wednesday evening at the New York Marriott Marquis in Times Square. The funds raised will support industry organizations focused on leadership and professional development for women, diverse professionals, and students in media and entertainment. Each year, the Kaitz Dinner draws industry executives and supporters in a celebration that serves as the capstone event for the media and entertainment industry’s Diversity Week.

The event theme, **Do Good. Be Better. Impact Tomorrow.**, was amplified by the enthusiasm of esteemed co-chairs **Mark Greatrex**, President of Cox Communications, and **Angela Cannon**, Senior Vice President, Multicultural Networks & General Manager of aspireTV, as well as the evening’s host, **Brian Cheung**, NBC New Business & Data Correspondent and Emma Bowen Foundation alumnus.

Osaze Murray, winner of the 2024 NBC Telemundo Spoken Word contest; **Chris “CJW” Weaver**, vocalist; and **Brawley “Cheese” Chisholm** and **Jahmani “Hot Shot” Swanson** of the **Harlem Globetrotters** provided captivating entertainment throughout the night.

The **ChangeMaker Award**, presented at the dinner, honored those who have made significant contributions to advancing diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging in media and entertainment. The ChangeMaker Award for Social Impact was awarded to the **Handy Foundation** for creating and implementing apprentice training programs for the television, film, and media industries. **Ri-Karlo Handy**, Founder of the Handy Foundation, accepted the award along with a surprise \$30,000 grant in support of their efforts to create lasting change for aspiring talent.

The NCTA Education Foundation also recognized its partnership with the **Hillman Grad Mentorship Lab**. The Mentorship Lab provides a six-month intensive development opportunity for diverse storytellers to accelerate their careers. **Justin Riley**, Senior Vice President of Hillman Grad, spoke about the program.

Contributions for the NCTA Education Foundation and its vital mission are still welcome and encouraged, as the annual fundraising drive remains active until December 31, 2024.

###

About The NCTA Education Foundation

Formerly known as the Walter Kaitz Foundation, the NCTA Education Foundation is a 501(c)(3) organization which continues the legacy of advancing diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI), and leveraging the industry's impact in communities across the country.