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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**PAUL QUINN COLLEGE’S ALISA FOWLER WINS PRESTIGIOUS FREDERICK DOUGLASS GLOBAL FELLOWSHIP TO STUDY ABROAD IN LONDON THIS SUMMER**

**DALLAS – April 2, 2019 – Paul Quinn College s**ophomore **Alisa Fowler** was named a Frederick Douglass Global Fellow, an honor awarding her a full scholarship to represent Paul Quinn College in a study abroad program in London this summer. Alisa is one of 10 students across the country to earn the prestigious Frederick Douglass Global Fellowship (FDGF).

The FDGF is operated jointly by the [**Council on International Educational Exchange**](https://www.ciee.org/)**(CIEE), the nation’s largest non-profit facilitator of studying abroad, and the**[**Penn Center for Minority Serving Institutions**](https://cmsi.gse.upenn.edu/) **(CMSI). Fowler is one of 10 students attending Minority Serving Institutions (MSI) across the country, who have won the all-expenses paid opportunity to study abroad. Each year, the Fellowship is awarded to 10 MSI students.**

Alisa, a legal studies major, made the President’s Honor Roll her first semester in college, and was recently named one of 12 Paul Quinn College Presidential Scholars, earning a full college scholarship. She was recruited to the PQC Plano cohort, a selective and rigorous group of Paul Quinn College students chosen to launch the PQC Plano Campus and expand the nationally recognized urban work college model beyond the borders of Dallas, TX.

Alisa has served as a Teaching Assistant to Paul Quinn College President Michael Sorrell, is a Resident Assistant on the PQC Plano Campus, and is an intern for NTT Data Services Inc. in the competitive Paul Quinn College Corporate Work Program. Alisa recently was selected for the Duke North Texas Alumni Association/Paul Quinn College student mentoring program.

She wants to be a homicide detective, and dreams of being a voice of reformation in the American justice system, inspiring ethical practices that promote fair law enforcement practices for those suffering in poverty. During her travels, she hopes to gain more knowledge of police duties in different cultures and on a global scale as she prepares for a life of service.

“Being able to study abroad is an amazing opportunity that not many minority students are able to pursue,” Alisa said. “Being given this opportunity is a blessing and an honor, and it will motivate and prepare me to achieve my objective of one day becoming a homicide detective.”

**Alisa said her desire to learn more about law enforcement was spurred after a family member died in a police shooting in 2013**. “I became more observant of police killings and how frequent they were in Chicago,” she said. “As a legal studies major, I strongly believe that by learning more about situations and police brutality around the world is a great way to better prepare to find solutions that can create a better environment in my community.”

**The Fellows were nominated by their college presidents and selected during a national competition. The winners have demonstrated high academic achievement, possess exemplary communication skills, display the hallmarks of self-determination, exhibit characteristics of bold leadership, and have a history of service to others.**

**“The Quinnite Nation is beyond proud of Presidential Scholar Alisa Fowler for her recent selection as a recipient of the prestigious Frederick Douglass Global Fellowship,” said Dr. Michael J. Sorrell, President of Paul Quinn College. “Her selection continues the tradition established by PQC alum Vincent Owoseni of Douglass Fellows at Paul Quinn and serves as a powerful example for the rest of our students.”**

**Starting in the school year 2019-2020, all Paul Quinn College students will be required to study abroad.**

**The winners will use their experiences to motivate other under-represented students to pursue opportunities to study abroad.** Only 6.1 percent of the 332,727 US college students who studied abroad in 2017 were African Americans, according to data from the Institute of International Education. That figure represents only a slight increase from the 3.5 percent of black students who studied abroad in 2005. Students of color, who are only 30% of the study abroad students in 2017, largely miss out on international education experiences that can play a critical role in their personal growth, as well as, academic and career success.

 “The students selected for the Frederick Douglass Global Fellowship are ten exemplary student leaders who demonstrate the iconic leadership, keen intellect, and natural change-agent attributes of Frederick Douglass,” said James P. Pellow, President and CEO of CIEE. “These students will be the next generation of leaders and I know that the intercultural competence and global perspective they will gain during the London program will benefit them throughout their lives.”

The Frederick Douglass Fellowship, which launched in 2017, is representative of efforts by CIEE and CMSI to increase diversity in study abroad by breaking down the barriers of cost, curriculum, and culture that prevent students from participating in international education experiences. Named for the African American social reformer, abolitionist, orator, writer, and international statesman Frederick Douglass, the Fellowship encourages students to use his life as a model to becoming bold, globally conscious and service-oriented leaders.

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**About the Penn Center for Minority Serving Institutions
The Penn Center for Minority Serving Institutions brings together researchers and practitioners from the nation's Minority Serving Institutions. CMSI’s goals include: elevating the educational contributions of MSIs; ensuring that they are a part of national conversations; bringing awareness to the vital role MSIs play in the nation’s economic development; increasing the rigorous scholarship of MSIs; connecting MSIs’ academic and administrative leadership to promote reform initiatives; and strengthening efforts to close educational achievement gaps among disadvantaged communities. Visit**[**www.gse.upenn.edu/cmsi.**](https://cmsi.gse.upenn.edu/) **About the Council on International Educational Exchange
CIEE was founded in 1947 to facilitate international exchange programs that help foster peace and understanding in our world and to open doors to such programs for students from all socio-economic backgrounds.  Today, CIEE serves more than 400 U.S. colleges and universities, 1,000 U.S. high schools, and facilitates over 40,000 exchanges each year. CIEE serves as the leading sponsor for the U.S. Department of State’s Exchange Visitor Program (the J-1 visa program), promoting exchanges with over 100 countries. Additional CIEE programs include international faculty training, teach abroad, and various specialty and custom programs for secondary, post-secondary, and international students. Visit**[**www.ciee.org**](https://www.ciee.org/)**.**

**About Paul Quinn College**

**Paul Quinn College is a private, faith-based, four-year, liberal arts-inspired college that was founded on April 4, 1872, by a group of African Methodist Episcopal Church preachers in Austin, Texas. The school’s original purpose was to educate freed slaves and their offspring. Today, we proudly educate students of all races and socio-economic classes under the banner of our institutional ethos, WE over Me. Our mission is to provide a quality, faith-based education that addresses the academic, social, and Christian development of students.**

**Under President Sorrell’s leadership, Paul Quinn has become one of the most innovative and respected small colleges in the nation and now serves as a model for urban higher education. Fortune magazine recognized President Sorrell’s work and the College’s transformation by naming him one of the World’s 50 Greatest Leaders. President Sorrell is also a three-time award winner of HBCU Male President of the Year by HBCU Digest and was named by Time magazine as one of the “31 People Changing the South.”**