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PHOENIX PROJECT BUILDS CAPACITY IN PETERSBURG

The Phoenix Project is expanding its capacity building work in Petersburg by hiring two new staff members. David Carter joins the Phoenix Project as Director of Programs and General Counsel and will be based in the Petersburg region. He will work to expand university-community partnership efforts and spearhead the Phoenix Project's flagship summer Nonprofit Leadership and Social Entrepreneurship Program.

"I am excited to build on the successes of the past two years and expand the Phoenix Project's work in Petersburg," said Mr. Carter. "The model programs we are developing together in Petersburg are gaining attention throughout Virginia, and we are setting the standard for other communities. I am pleased to be a part of it."

"David's presence in the Petersburg region full time will allow us to be even more responsive to the organizations with which we work and give us a more permanent presence in the community," explained Greg Werkheiser, Phoenix Project Executive Director. "It was a real coup for us to hire him away from his lucrative law firm position, and I know everyone in Petersburg will enjoy working with him as much as we do."

Prior to joining the Phoenix Project as a staff member, David served as secretary and treasurer of its board of directors and as an associate in the business litigation practice of the law firm Womble Carlyle Sandridge & Rice, PLLC. David has previously served as the Director of Youth Programs for the Sorensen Institute for Political Leadership at the University of Virginia and on the board of directors for the Virginia Citizenship Institute. During law school, he was a fellow for William and Mary's Courtroom 21 Project, where he provided guidance on corporate and government relations. From 2001-2003, he helped to establish the Washington Office of the College of William and Mary, his undergraduate and law school *alma mater*.

The Phoenix Project also welcomes Shanice Penn, who joins the organization as Operations Manager. A graduate of the first class of the Virginia Citizenship Institute (VCI), now the Sorensen Institute for Political Leadership at the University of Virginia, Shanice has several years experience providing administrative and programming support. While a student at Mary Baldwin College, she created, developed and facilitated multicultural student programming and assisted in the formation of a number of student organizations geared towards building relationships with the Staunton community through service and multicultural education. Prior to joining the Phoenix Project, Shanice worked as a paralegal at a top international law firm in Washington, D.C. She graduated from Mary Baldwin College with a B.A. in Political Science.

“Shanice brings a wealth of relevant experience to the Phoenix Project and is a great asset on our team,” said Marion Forsyth, Phoenix Project Associate Director.

The Phoenix Project is a statewide nonprofit organization that seeks to alleviate poverty by building a sustainable partnership between Virginia higher education and the Commonwealth’s most distressed communities that adds civic capacity to communities, strengthens the mission of universities, and provides a powerful context in which to prepare nonprofit and social entrepreneurs for tomorrow’s Virginia. To learn more about the Phoenix Project please visit www.phoenixproject.org.

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Media note: The Phoenix Project will be hosting a reception to welcome its new employees in Petersburg on Monday, January 14 at the Tabernacle Community Life Center, 418 Halifax St., from 6:00-7:30pm. Members of the Phoenix Project’s Community Advisory Council and client organizations are invited. Members of the media are welcome to attend.