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**THE SOUTHERN EDUCATION FOUNDATION WELCOMES RAYMOND C.
PIERCE AS ITS NEW PRESIDENT & CEO**

SEF Continues Legacy of Advancing Educational Opportunity

January 3, 2018 — The [Southern Education Foundation](#) (SEF) is pleased to announce that [Raymond C. Pierce](#) has accepted the position of President and CEO effective January 8, 2018. This new chapter in SEF's long legacy of advancing educational opportunity follows SEF's recent celebration of its 150th anniversary. "Our anniversary provides the perfect opportunity for us to both reflect on our historic past and the future path Raymond will help us chart," said Milton Little Jr., SEF Board Chair and President and CEO of United Way of Greater Atlanta, "His expertise in education policy and law as well as his extensive tenure in leading investments in key education issues across the pipeline uniquely equip him to move the needle on equity as SEF continues to champion education as both a civil and human right."

Most recently, Pierce served as Chief Education Officer of the Global Teaching Project, a digital education development company, and was integral in the launching of the organization in 2016. From 2005 to 2012, Pierce served as Dean of the North Carolina Central University School of Law, where he led the law school to national recognition in educational programming and student achievement. From 1993 to 2000, Pierce served as Deputy Assistant Secretary of the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights through a political appointment in the administration of President Bill Clinton. He directed an aggressive national K-12 education and civil rights initiative targeting access to quality education for students of color. Pierce also directed the development and publication of the federal government's response to the 1992 U.S. Supreme Court decision in the *Ayers v. Fordice* case, resulting in major federal education and civil rights policy and guidelines centering on desegregating higher education, which impacted publicly supported Historically Black Colleges and Universities. By extension, he successfully negotiated resolutions in Florida, Kentucky, Virginia, Texas, Maryland, Pennsylvania, and Ohio leading to a significant increase in public capital funding for HBCUs.

Following his service at the U.S. Department of Education, he was a partner at Baker Hostetler and later Nelson Mullins law firms, where his practice focused on education and business law. Pierce began his career as a civil rights attorney focusing on employment discrimination in Little Rock, Arkansas with the John W. Walker Law Firm.

Pierce is a long-time member of the President's Policy Council of the Alliance for Excellence in Education, a Washington D.C. think-tank focusing on education policy for improving student outcomes and high school graduation rates. He is also a member of the Executive Committee of the Council on Legal Education of the American Bar Association for managing the standards and review of the accreditation of law schools. Pierce served several years as an appointed member on the North Carolina State Banking Commission and currently serves as a director of Mechanics and Farmers Bank in Durham, N.C.. Pierce holds a Bachelor's degree in English Language and Literature from Syracuse University and a J.D. from Case Western Reserve University School of Law.

“The board is very pleased that Raymond has agreed to bring his far-reaching talents to the Southern Education Foundation. We look forward to supporting our new President and CEO in furthering SEF's mission to advance educational equity and excellence for all students in the South,” said Frederick Frelow, Chairman of the Southern Education Foundation Search Committee and Board Trustee.

The Southern Education Foundation was established in 1867 following the Civil War to provide education for the previously enslaved population and poor whites in the South. In its early years, the organization was on the frontlines of training Black teachers for elementary and secondary schools, supporting and amplifying the work of Historically Black Colleges & Universities, and enhancing the capacity of both emerging and senior education leaders of whom W.E.B. Dubious was among the first. “I am both honored and excited to have the opportunity to lead this great institution that has such a tremendous legacy in advancing educational opportunities for generations of youth in the South,” said Pierce.

The search was led by BoardWalk Consulting of Atlanta.

About Southern Education Foundation

The [Southern Education Foundation](#) (SEF), founded in 1867, is an Atlanta-based research institution and policy advocate whose mission is to advance creative solutions to ensure equity and excellence in education for low-income students and students of color in the South. SEF publishes a host of impactful reports including “[A New Majority](#)” & “[Performance Funding at MSIs](#)” as featured in *The Washington Post* and *Inside Higher Ed*, respectively. For more information, visit www.SouthernEducation.org.

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