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Date: June 22, 2017

**Binc and Macmillan Form Partnership to Foster Diversity in Bookselling Community  
Nine Scholarships to be Awarded in 2017**

The Book Industry Charitable (Binc) Foundation and Macmillan Publishers are taking action to promote diversity in the book industry. The Foundation announced today the start of the Macmillan Booksellers Professional Development Scholarship, a pilot program that will provide professional development to booksellers traditionally underrepresented within the industry.

Since 2013, Binc has worked to strengthen the book industry by providing booksellers with professional development scholarships. These scholarships have allowed booksellers from across the country to increase their knowledge of bookselling by attending the American Booksellers Association Winter Institute, Children's Institute or regional trade shows. In order to encourage a greater number of individuals from underrepresented groups to choose and/or continue careers in bookselling, Binc has partnered with Macmillan Publishers to introduce the Macmillan Booksellers Professional Development Scholarship.

"We at Macmillan are committed to publishing a greater diversity of voices; and this partnership with Binc and the bookseller community is a step towards those voices reaching an ever-growing audience of readers," said Don Weisberg, President of Macmillan Publishers.

Recurring requests over the past few years and the results of Binc's 2016 Bookseller Survey led to the creation of this pilot program. The Macmillan Booksellers Professional Development Scholarship will provide up to a maximum of \$500 for a bookseller from a traditionally underrepresented group to attend a regional trade show. Each scholarship will cover the cost of travel, lodging, and meals. During the pilot period, nine scholarships are available – one for each regional independent bookseller association.

To be eligible to apply for a scholarship, a bookseller must have worked in a bookstore as a regular full or part-time employee for a minimum of 90 days. The bookstore must be a member in good standing of one of the regional trade associations. The applicant will answer three brief essay questions and the winners will be selected by a panel composed of Binc board members, booksellers, bookstore owners, and publishers.

Angus Killick, Co-chair, Macmillan Diversity & Inclusion Council, VP, Associate Publisher, MCPG, will be among the industry professionals evaluating the applications.

"I am particularly happy to serve on the selection committee for this new scholarship program which will place diverse candidates in a more central role within the industry, and invests in our shared future in the bookselling community," he said.

Binc Executive Director Pam French said the Foundation is excited to introduce programming that will strengthen the bookselling industry by providing support for the diverse booksellers already working hard to make their communities great.

"This program is truly a collaborative effort," she said. "In 2015, Binc created a diversity task force to explore how we could help expand career opportunities for booksellers in diverse groups. Through this committee's good work and a new partnership with Macmillan Publishers, booksellers in under-represented groups will now have more options for valuable enrichment and ideally long careers within the book industry."

Booksellers can find out more details and apply at <https://bincfoundation.submittable.com/submit>. Applications must be completed by July 17, 2017.

Eligibility:

1. Applicants must fall into one of the following categories
  - a. People of color, defined as people of African/African American, Asian/Pacific Islander, Latin American, Middle Eastern, or Native American/Indigenous descent
  - b. People who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or queer
  - c. People with disabilities (includes but is not limited to physical, sensory, cognitive, intellectual, or developmental disabilities, chronic conditions, and mental illnesses).
2. Applicant's store must be a member of one of the regional IBA organizations.
3. Applicant must be a regular part-time or full-time employee of the bookstore.
4. Applicant must be currently employed and have 90 days of continuous employment with the bookstore.

### **About The Book Industry Charitable (Binc) Foundation**

The Book Industry Charitable Foundation is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that coordinates charitable programs to strengthen the bookselling community. Established in 1996, the core program provides assistance to bookstore employees who have a demonstrated financial need arising from severe hardship and/or emergency circumstances.

Since its inception, the organization has provided over \$6 million in financial assistance and scholarships to more than 7,100 families. Support for the Foundation's programs and services come from all sectors of the book industry. The Book Industry Charitable Foundation's mission is to strengthen the bookselling

community through charitable programs that support employees and their families. The Foundation was imagined and built by booksellers and proudly continues to be their safety net. It is our vision to be a caring community of book people. Additional information can be found at <http://www.bincfoundation.org>.

### **About Macmillan Publishers**

Macmillan Publishers is a global trade book publishing company with prominent imprints around the world. Macmillan publishes a broad range of award-winning books for children and adults in all categories and formats.

US publishers include Farrar, Straus and Giroux, Flatiron Books, Henry Holt & Company, Macmillan Audio, Macmillan Children's Publishing Group, Picador, St. Martin's Press and Tor Books. In the UK, Australia, India and South Africa, Macmillan publishes under the Pan Macmillan name. The German company, Holtzbrinck Deutsche Buchverlage, includes among its imprints, S. Fischer, Kiepenheuer and Witsch, Rowohlt and Droemer Knauer.

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