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**Educational and Charitable Foundation Accepting Nominations**

**Awards Recognize Community Service**

Alexandria, VA-February 4, 2022--The Educational and Charitable Foundation (ECF) today announced that nominations are being accepted for 2022 Community Shining Stars Awards which recognize and celebrate individuals who go above and beyond in exemplifying the true impact of volunteers who make a difference in their communities.

The Community Shining Star Award recognizes and celebrates African American individuals within the Northern Virginia community who have dedicated their time and service in the areas of economic empowerment, healthcare, and education resulting in exceptional community impact.

Specific award categories are:

* **Economic Empowerment**

This award recognizes business owners and entrepreneurs in the Northern Virginia community who have made significant contributions by providing resources and opportunities that have improved social and economic opportunities in their community.

* **Healthcare Professional**

This award recognizes healthcare professionals who have demonstrated above and beyond care and service to the Northern Virginia Community by advocating for local health needs, providing health services to the disadvantaged, and/or implementing health education programs within the community. Nominees can be physicians, nurses, or other licensed healthcare professionals.

* **Education**

This award recognizes community members who have excelled in supporting the educational needs of minority children in the Northern Virginia community.

Awards will be presented as a part of ECF’s 2022 Book Signing & Scholarship Celebration, scheduled at Capital One Hall on Saturday, May 7, 2022. All applications must be received by March 15, 2022. Selection criteria and applications are available at <https://www.ec-foundation.org/shiningstars>.

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