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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

AAAM and Southeastern Museums Conference (SEMC) Congratulate 2017 John Kinard Scholarship Recipients to Attend the Jekyll Island Management Institute

WASHINGTON, DC (December 16, 2016)—**Vanessa Thaxton-Ward, Interim Director and Curator of Collections, Hampton University Museum, and Carla J. Thomas McGinnis, Program Specialist, National Museum of African American History and Culture**, have been selected as recipients for the John Kinard Scholarship Fund to attend the [17th Annual Jekyll Island Management Institute \(JIMI\)](#), January 17 - 24, 2017. JIMI is administered by the [Southeastern Museums Conference \(SEMC\)](#) and is specifically designed for administrators from new and emerging museums and for museum professionals with subject area expertise desiring knowledge of general museum administration and operations.

Located on historic Jekyll Island, GA, this highly successful training program provides a unique eight-day immersion for museum professionals seeking the opportunity to learn management, personnel and interpretive skills from leading experts. Sessions include leadership and management styles, administration and trusteeship, strategic planning, fundraising and marketing, financial management, developing exhibits, public relations, collections management, disaster preparedness, interpretation, volunteer management, and museum ethics.

The John Kinard Scholarship is exclusive to AAAM members, and is made possible by generous funds provided by the Smithsonian Institution National Museum of African American History and Culture (NMAAHC).

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