



New donation recognizes Henrietta Lacks' impact on Life Sciences

Global biotech firm abcam contributes a further gift to support the STEM education of underserved communities

May 24, 2023, Portland, Oregon – The Henrietta Lacks Foundation (HLF) has received a third donation from global biotech firm, abcam, to continue helping people whose families were involved in research projects without their consent. The proceeds will be used to fund scholarships and provide opportunities for young people to access careers in the growing science and technology industries.

"When you are a young person from a disadvantaged community, there's often a big gap between your dream career in STEM and the reality of college fees," says Brianna Baptiste, great-granddaughter of Henrietta Lacks. *"I do thank the HLF and abcam for helping me fund my education at Howard University. It really helps me as I get older and as I go through the process of being out in the world to figure out what I want to do. It just feels great."*

Despite a growing number of STEM professionals, Black, Latino and Asian communities still represent a minority of the workforce. In the past several years since Abcam began contributing, the HLF has helped several descendants of Henrietta Lacks start higher education programs in various STEM fields, including healthcare, surgery, and psychology.

Professor Clyde W. Yancy, MD, member of the HLF Board of Directors, Chief of Cardiology said: *"The Henrietta Lacks Foundation Board continues to be in awe of the magnanimous generosity and the purposeful spirit of the leadership of abcam. Their consistent support is unlike any other corporate entity in the history of the HLF. This helps cement the legacy of Henrietta Lacks while ensuring that her heirs and our grantees are able to accept the critical investments in scholarships and educational costs throughout the duration of a college education. This is how generational change happens."*

"The HLF is doing an amazing job keeping Henrietta Lacks' memory alive and helping society in a positive way", **said Alan Hirzel, CEO at abcam.** *"We believe in the power of the science community to drive positive change and make STEM more inclusive. We're honored to support the Foundation's mission and help create a better future for its beneficiaries."*

Back in August 2020, abcam was the first company benefitting from Henrietta Lacks' cell lines (HeLa cells), to economically support the HLF. Since then, the people at abcam have kept close links with the Foundation and the descendants of Henrietta Lacks, including Brianna Baptiste, who was invited recently to share with abcam her experience at Howard University.