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**PROVIDENCE HEALTH AWARDS LAKESHA N. WILLIAMS
THE PRESTON JONES SCHOLARSHIP**

COLUMBIA, SC – Providence Health announced Lakesha N. Williams as its 2017 Dr. Preston A. Jones Memorial Scholarship recipient at a ceremony last evening.

Lakesha Williams is a fourth-year medical student in the process of applying to family medicine residency programs with the hope of providing primary care. After completing her BS in Biological Sciences from Clemson University, she spent several years in the work force before beginning a master's degree in neuroscience at The University of Hartford. She again entered the workforce and enrolled at The USC School of Medicine.

Ms. Williams is passionate about her roles as: counselor of students; adjunct faculty member; program coordinator for a medical school pipeline program; and volunteering in her church and community. Her life experiences have helped develop the gentleness, integrity, and humility, which are key components for a compassionate physician.

Dr. Edward 'Mac' Leppard, Scholarship Committee Member, said, "Lakesha is an excellent representation of the legacy of Dr. Preston Jones. The compassionate care and encouragement she extends to both patients and colleagues will benefit the communities she serves and the organizations in which she works."

In 2009, a scholarship was established to honor the legacy of the late Dr. Preston A. Jones through the generous support of donors wishing to continue his legacy of excellence. Ms. Williams received the scholarship on May 2, 2017 at a reception held at the Palmetto Club.

About Providence Health:

A part of LifePoint Health, Providence Health is the leading provider of cardiovascular and orthopedic services in the Midlands. Providence is composed of two hospitals, sixteen physician practices, a network of rehabilitation centers, two sleep centers, an imaging and diagnostics lab, a school of cardiac diagnostics and an accredited chest pain center. In total, Providence employs more than 1,800 dedicated staff. Founded in 1938 by the Sisters of Charity of St. Augustine, Providence is known statewide for outstanding clinical quality and compassionate care. Providence Health was recognized nationally by U.S. News & World Report, tying for second place as the Best Hospital in South Carolina. In addition, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services awarded Providence Health a 4-star rating, which is the highest rank issued to a Columbia health care entity. The Providence open heart surgery program has consistently ranked in the top 15 percent of open heart programs in the nation. Both orthopedics and cardiac services have received the South Carolina BlueCross BlueShield Blue Distinction Center designation. For more information, visit YourProvidenceHealth.com.

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