



ABLE CHANNEL APPOINTS HISTORIC NASA ASTRONAUT AND MEDICAL LEADER DR. BERNARD A. HARRIS, JR. TO BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Ground-breaking NASA Astronaut, MD and Healthcare Business Trailblazer
Brings Acclaimed Leadership to New, Healthcare Focused Streaming Service
Arriving in 2021**

Harris Joins Able Channel's Esteemed Board of Acclaimed Medicine & Media Leaders

New York, NY (December XX, 2020) – Dr. Bernard A. Harris, Jr. – whose career is rich with achievements as a NASA astronaut and a trailblazer in medicine and business – has been appointed to the Board of Directors for ABLE Channel, the emerging streaming service devoted to original consumer healthcare programming. His appointment to the Board was announced today by ABLE's CEO and Founder, Brian McCourt.

A former two-time Space Shuttle veteran, Dr. Harris made history in 1996 when he became the first African-American to walk in space. That historic step, however, was just one of many in a celebrated career in medicine, business, philanthropy, and volunteerism. Dr. Harris currently is Founder and Managing Partner with Vesalius Ventures, Inc., a venture capital firm that invests in Healthcare technologies and companies, where he oversees a portfolio of private assets of early and mid- stage venture investments and operating companies. His numerous pro-social contributions include serving as Chief Executive Officer, National Math & Science Initiative and leads the organization's efforts to improve teacher effectiveness and student achievement in communities across the country.

Dr. Harris' 25 years of philanthropic contributions include his role as Founder of the Harris Institute & Foundation. He received honorary doctorate degrees from Stony Brook University (SUNY), Morehouse School of Medicine, New Jersey Institute of Technology (NJIT), Washington & Jefferson College, Worcester Polytechnic Institute, University of Hartford and Indiana Institute of Technology. He received the NASA Space Flight Medal, the NASA Award of Merit, is a fellow of the American College of Physicians and was recipient of the 2000 Horatio Alger Award, whose mission is to honor Americans of Distinction. Dr. Harris's self-empowerment and self-determination approach was chronicled in his 2010 book, "Dream Walker: A Journey of Achievement and Inspiration."

"Dr. Harris, is a natural fit for Able Channel," explains McCourt. "Able Channel's mission is to bring the best and brightest leaders in media, medicine and science together, to innovate the way consumers learn about their health. Able Channel offers consumers healthcare centered programming that blends storytelling with factual medical content. Dr. Harris's dense biography in medicine and his vast knowledge of the healthcare business underscores ABLE's mission to be the brand that brings consumers vital health information at a time when it's needed most. On behalf of the entire board, we are humbled by his commitment to ABLE Channel and are energized by his business acumen and proven leadership as an innovator in healthcare."

Formally slated to launch in early 2021, ABLE Channel's story-driven, original content will be available 24/7 on AppleTV, iOS, Android and Roku devices, with more platform rollouts planned for the coming weeks and months. ABLE recently unveiled *Surviving Suicide*, a candid six-part docuseries featuring real-life stories of individuals whose suicide attempts led them to thrive and share their stories in hopes of inspiring others suffering from depression.

ABLE Channel's programming slate features premieres of new original series with real stories each quarter focusing on urgent and relevant health topics such as living well, cancer, the brain, aging, behavioral health, chronic illness, and disability. For ABLE, the potential scope of the audience is massive: an estimated 150 million Americans have a chronic health condition or disability, and the Covid-19 pandemic has led to a renewed consumer focus on personal health.

Dr. Harris joins ABLE's esteemed Board of Directors, a Who's Who of some of the most accomplished leaders from medicine and business: former Chairman of Time-Warner, **Jerry Levin**; Executive Advisor and former President and CEO of the Cleveland Clinic, **Dr. Toby Cosgrove**; President and CEO of the Nevada Health and Bioscience Center, **Maureen Schafer**; former MGM/United Artists EVP **Alan Cole-Ford**; Strategic Consultant for EBG Advisors, Inc., **Dr. Sam Nussbaum**; CEO of Agassi Graf Holdings and former CEO of Power Plate International, **Steve Miller**; Cofounder of Tarplin, Downs & Young, LLC, **Linda Tarplin**; and Managing Director at Obair Capital, LLC, **Greg Dyra**.

ABLE Channel's Board is further complemented by counsel from leading advisors including founder and former CEO of USA Networks, **Kay Koplovitz**; former vice president of Disney Company, **Oliver de Courson**; **Deborah Dagit**, former vice president and chief diversity officer at Merck; and **Dan Gasby**, CEO of Black-owned B. Smith Enterprises.

Able Channel is the new streaming service dedicated to one of the most important issues today: Healthcare. The programmer's content is now available 24/7 at www.ablechannel.com and on AppleTV, Android, IOS, and Roku devices with more distribution rollouts slated for early, 2021. Able Channel's content is powered by major medical partners including the renowned Cleveland Clinic. Able Channel is a division of The Able Channel, Inc.

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