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New Fellows Will Advance Effective Family Philanthropy

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The National Center for Family Philanthropy (NCFP) is pleased to announce that, following a competitive application process, Dimple Abichandani, Erin Borla, C’Ardiss (CC) Gardner Gleser, and Dilnaz Waraich have been selected to NCFP’s next class of Fellows. David Weitnauer has been selected as a Distinguished Fellow.

NCFP developed the Fellows Program to accelerate the learning and development of family philanthropy leaders, and to add voices to the NCFP community who can both define and elevate effective practices in the sector. With the work of its Fellows, through their individual and collective projects, NCFP is better able to support the full spectrum of family philanthropists to reach their full potential. In addition, the Distinguished Fellow—someone who is a significant contributor to family philanthropy with a longstanding and inspirational history of leadership—will also advocate for effective family philanthropy and use his voice, talents, and knowledge to advance the field.

David Weitnauer was selected as the Distinguished Fellow for his strong grasp on the principles of effective family philanthropy and his commitment to increasing the impact of family philanthropy. David is the president of the R. Howard Dobbs, Jr. Foundation in Atlanta, Georgia, where he has led governance and operations, facilitated intergenerational board transitions, and developed new grantmaking approaches. Among his many accomplishments, David contributed to the launch of the Georgia Social Impact Collaborative and the Georgia Grantmakers Alliance. He brings his experiences as a Presbyterian minister and counselor to his empathetic and collaborative approach.

“David is an extremely thoughtful philanthropic practitioner and I am grateful that he will contribute his time and expertise to help families grow in their practice,” said NCFP President and CEO Nick Tedesco.

Dimple Abichandani is a board member of the Solidaire Network and serves on the Steering Committee of the Trust-Based Philanthropy Project. Previously, she served as the executive director of the General Service Foundation and on the boards of Northern California Grantmakers and Grantmakers Concerned with Immigrants and Refugees. Dimple is deeply involved in the philanthropic sector and has used her voice extensively to share effective practices with the family philanthropy community through writing and speaking engagements.

Erin Borla, executive director and trustee of the Roundhouse Foundation in Sisters, Oregon, has a passion for supporting rural and Native communities. To her work, Erin brings practices of deep listening and collaboration as well as her experiences working with and for nonprofit organizations. Erin is an advocate for relationship-building and the ways in which funders can support grantees beyond financial contributions.

CC Gardner Gleser has significant experience in philanthropy. She currently chairs the Andrus Family Fund and most recently worked as the director of programs and strategic initiatives at the Satterberg Foundation. She also serves on the boards of the Charlotte Martin Foundation, Emerging Practitioners in Philanthropy, and Grist, as well as leading her own consulting practice that provides services for the philanthropic sector and healing spaces for Black scholars, artists, and social justice advocates.

Dilnaz Waraich is president of the Waraich Family Fund and uses her philanthropic efforts to further pluralism and build bridges across communities. Dilnaz works closely with the Lilly Family School of Philanthropy's Muslim Philanthropy Initiative and funded the school's Community Collaboration Initiative, which aligns with her commitment to supporting philanthropic and nonprofit collaboration.

"I was humbled by the caliber of applicants we received and am thrilled that CC, Dimple, Dilnaz, and Erin were selected to the class of Fellows. They each bring a unique and thoughtful perspective to their work and are well-positioned to advance effective family philanthropy practices that center equity, accountability, relationships, and learning," Tedesco said. "Individually, they have contributed substantially to effective family philanthropy efforts, and I look forward to the ways they will bring their experiences to collectively strengthen family philanthropy."

NCFP extends its sincere gratitude to its previous class of fellows, which included Distinguished Fellow Mary Mountcastle, trustee of the Mary Reynolds Babcock Foundation, Kelly Nowlin, trustee of the Surdna Foundation, and June Wilson, executive director of the Compton Foundation. These leaders were instrumental in building NCFP's Racial Justice Learning and Action Cohort curriculum and moving the field to embrace equity as a tenet of effective family philanthropy.

NCFP is a network of philanthropic families committed to a world that is vibrant, equitable, and resilient. We share proven practices, work through common challenges, and learn together to strengthen our ability to effect meaningful change. Our range of programs and services support family philanthropy at its many points of inflection and help families embrace proven practices and advance momentum. Explore our resources, all rooted in a Family Giving Lifecycle, by visiting www.ncfp.org.

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