# ESSENCE AND THE PALEY CENTER FOR MEDIA PRESENT: "THE POWER OF OUR PRESENCE – AN EXHIBITION CELEBRATING THE 10-YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF THE ESSENCE BLACK WOMEN IN HOLLYWOOD AWARDS"

**NEW YORK (February 2, 2017)**—Time Inc.'s (NYSE:TIME) Essence, the preeminent brand for African-American women, and the Paley Center for Media are excited to announce "*The Power of Our Presence – An Exhibition Celebrating the 10 Year Anniversary of the Essence Black Women in Hollywood Awards.*" The exhibit will commemorate the 10th anniversary of Essence's esteemed *Black Women in Hollywood Awards*—the annual Oscar-week luncheon at the forefront of spotlighting Hollywood's most creative and accomplished visionaries. A private opening reception for the exhibit will take place on Tuesday, February 7, 2017.

The exhibit, a highlight of this year's Black History Month celebration at the Paley Center, is set to feature costumes from the lead female characters from each of their hit television series, including one of the iconic white coats worn by **Kerry Washington** in *Scandal,* **Tracee Ellis Ross**'s scrubs from *Black-ish* and a costume from **Taraji P. Henson**'s "Cookie Lion" of *Empire.*

Archived memorabilia, photos and footage from the luncheon's nine-year history will be on display, including re-creations of the event's extraordinary tablescapes, images from past honorees, special video messages from **Angela Bassett** and **Lynn Whitfield**, a compilation footage of some the event's most touching acceptance speeches and much more.

"We are beyond thrilled to partner with the Paley Center to present the *Power of Our Presence* exhibit—as Essence prepares to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Black Women in Hollywood Awards," said Essence President Michelle Ebanks. "Experience the magic of the red carpet as it comes to life and shines a spotlight on the most influential and pioneering women in Hollywood."

"We are so honored to partner with Essence in presenting this powerful exhibit in support of its special milestone anniversary," said Maureen J. Reidy, the Paley Center's President and CEO. "The Paley Center is proud of its ongoing commitment to preserving and celebrating African American achievements in television. This Essence

exhibit is a signature part of our Black History Month celebration, which also includes screenings, educational activities and an onsite showcase of our own recent tribute."

For the past decade, Essence's *Black Women in Hollywood Awards* have paid homage to modern image-makers—both in front of the camera and behind the scenes. Since its inception in 2008, the awards have honored some of the most cherished figures in the industry, including **Oprah Winfrey, Lupita Nyong'o, Ava DuVernay, Viola Davis, Octavia Spencer, Taraji P. Henson** and many more. This year's event will shift from a daytime luncheon to an evening gala for the first time and will be held at the Beverly Wilshire in Beverly Hills, CA, on Thursday, February 23, 2017.

The *Power of Our Presence* exhibit will be open at the Paley Center's Beverly Hills location (465 N. Beverly Drive, Beverly Hills, CA 90210) from Wednesday, February 8 to Tuesday, February 28, 2017.

For more information about this exhibit, please visit Essence.com or paley.me/bwih, and follow Essence on Twitter, Instagram and Facebook @essence, as well as the Paley Center on Facebook and Twitter @PaleyCenter for more updates.

The Essence *Power of our Presence* exhibit is presented by **AT&T** and the **Minority Business Development Agency**.

# # #

**ABOUT ESSENCE COMMUNICATIONS INC.**
ESSENCE Communications Inc. (ECI) is the number one media company dedicated to African-American women, with a multi-platform presence in publishing, live events and online. The company's flagship publication, Essence magazine, is the preeminent lifestyle magazine for African-American women, generating brand extensions such as the Essence Festival, Essence Black Women in Hollywood and Black Women in Music, Window on Our Women and Smart Beauty consumer insights series, Essence.com, and ventures in digital media (mobile, television and VOD). For 46 years, Essence, which has a brand reach of 14.2 million, has been the leading source of cutting-edge information and specific solutions relating to every area of African-American women's lives. Additional information about ECI and Essence is available at www.essence.com.

**ABOUT THE PALEY CENTER FOR MEDIA**
The Paley Center for Media, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization with locations in New York and Los Angeles, leads the discussion about the cultural, creative, and social significance of television, radio, and emerging platforms for the professional community and media-interested public. Drawing upon its curatorial expertise, an international collection, and close relationships with the leaders of the media community, the Paley Center examines the intersections between media and society. The general public can access the Paley Archive – including special African-American, Hispanic, and LGBT collections – and participate in programs that explore and celebrate the creativity, the innovations, the personalities, and the leaders who are shaping media. Through the

global programs of its Media Council and International Council, the Paley Center also serves as a neutral setting where media professionals can engage in discussion and debate about the evolving media landscape. Previously known as The Museum of Television & Radio, the Paley Center was founded in 1975 by William S. Paley, a pioneering innovator in the industry. For more information, please visit paleycenter.org

**CONTACT**
**Essence**
Sheila Harris, 212-522-1089
sheila.harris@timeinc.com

Bradford Bridgers, 212-522-0108
Bradford.bridgers@timeinc.com

**The Paley Center for Media**
Teresa Brady, 212-621-6697
tbrady@paleycenter.org