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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**REP. STACEY ABRAMS TO PROVIDE INSPIRATIONAL INSIGHTS AT
AAL's EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP PROGRAM FOR WOMEN**

Rep. Stacey Abrams, J.D., House Minority Leader for the Georgia General Assembly and State Representative for the 89th House District will be a guest speaker at the 2016 Exceptional Executive Leadership Program for Women (*ExcEL for Women*). Set to take place October 16-18 at Château Élan Winery & Resort in scenic Braselton, GA, Rep. Abrams will provide inspirational insights about how women can function effectively in their lives and improve their leadership skills.

"We are very proud to have such a distinguished and well respected leader speaking at our 2.5 day leadership program," said N. Karl Haden, Ph.D., AAL President. "As the first woman to lead either party in the Georgia General Assembly and the first African-American to lead in the Georgia House of Representatives, Rep. Abrams is a model for other women executive leaders and will kick-off our program appropriately providing inspirational insights at our welcome dinner."

Honored as a recipient of the prestigious John F. Kennedy New Frontier Award in 2012, Rep. Abrams has also been recognized nationally as one of the 2014 Public Officials of the Year by Governing magazine, received the inaugural Gabrielle Giffords Rising Star Award from EMILY'S List, and is a 2014 Aspen Rodel Fellow and a 2014 Hunt-Kean Leadership Fellow. She currently serves on the state of Georgia's Appropriations, Ethics, Judiciary Non-Civil, Rules, and Ways & Means committees. Rep. Abrams graduated magna cum laude with a B.A. in Interdisciplinary Studies from Spelman College as a Harry S. Truman Scholar. She received a Master's Degree from the Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs at the University of Texas at Austin and a J.D. from Yale Law School.

"The ExcEL for Women Program is unique in that it answers the call to assist high-impact women leaders who aspire for greater leadership roles in their professions," said Felicia Tucker-Lively, Ph.D., M.P.H., AAL Director of Professional Development. "Rep. Abrams embodies a high-impact leader and we are very fortunate that she is able to take time out of her extremely busy schedule to inspire other women leaders."

Women today make up almost 51 percent of the U.S. population. In addition, they earn 60 percent of master's degrees, 47 percent law degrees, 48 percent medical degrees, and account for 49 percent of the college-educated workforce. While progress is being made in some areas, inequities continue to exist for women in terms of their representation in high-level executive leadership positions. In spite of women holding more leadership positions in academic medicine, dentistry, and pharmacy than ever before, 75 to 85-percent of deans and department chairs remain men. Although some businesses, institutions, and other organizations recognize the need for leadership development programs for women, additional preparation for women who aspire to leadership roles in the health professions is essential.

During the October 16-18, 2016 leadership program, participants will engage in hands-on structured training and mentorship to enhance their personal and interpersonal leadership skills. Individually tailored to build upon one competency at a time, the curriculum addresses topics critical to the growth of a high-impact leader:

- Leading with greater influence and decisiveness
- Driving innovation
- Developing strategic initiatives
- Building your professional network
- Heightening your political savvy

The ExcEL for Women facilitators are Dr. Marcia Ditmyer, a Vice President at AAL and Emerita Associate Professor for the University of Nevada, Las Vegas; Dr. Val Gokenbach, AAL Senior Consultant, a Robert Wood Johnson Executive Nurse Fellow and a Former Magnet® Commissioner; and Dr. Felicia Tucker-Lively, Director of Professional Development for AAL.

The ExcEL for Women program will be held at the Château Élan Winery & Resort, just 40 minutes northeast of Atlanta. Château Élan's resort and spa combine French provincial and Southern hospitality with the beautiful, unspoiled vistas of the North Georgia foothills and lush vineyards of Chardonnay, Merlot, Cabernet, and Riesling grapes. See chateauelan.com for additional details.

To register for the ExcEL for Women program prior to the September 9 deadline, please visit aalgroup.org/excel.

About the Academy for Academic Leadership

For more than 10 years, the Academy for Academic Leadership (AAL) has been dedicated to advancing people and institutions through professional development and consulting services. Headquartered in Atlanta, Georgia, AAL provides customized professional development and consulting services for academic healthcare executives, educators, practitioners, institutions, and associations. AAL activities include leadership development, coaching, strategic planning, change management, team building, and curriculum development. In addition to the ADEA/AAL ITL national program, AAL conducts the ADEA/Colgate/AAL Institute for Allied Health Educators (IAHE), the Chairs and Academic Administrators Management Program (CAAMP), and the Compass Program for Academic Advancement. In collaboration with the University of the Pacific, AAL offers a Master's Degree in Health Professions Education. For more information about AAL, the Master's degree program, ITL, IAHE, CAAMP, Compass, or other professional development programs for dental educators and administrators. For more information, please visit aalgroup.org.

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