

MEDIA CONTACTS

GARY SCHUELLER  
T 917.237.2121  
C 914.907.2169

ALLISON DAVIS  
C 201.697.6828

## JACKIE ROBINSON FOUNDATION TO HONOR ROBERT REDFORD, ROBIN ROBERTS AND DR. BENJAMIN CARSON SR.

**Annual Awards Dinner Slated for March 16, 2009 at Waldorf=Astoria**

**Legendary Entertainer Dr. Bill Cosby to Host Star Studded Gala for  
Nation's Premiere Minority Scholarship and Mentoring Program**

**John McGlade, Chairman, President and CEO of Air Products will  
serve as Event Chair.**

December 4, 2008 (New York, New York) – The Jackie Robinson Foundation (JRF) today announced that it would hold its 2009 Annual Awards Dinner on Monday, March 16<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm at New York's venerable Waldorf=Astoria hotel. Hosted by legendary entertainer Bill Cosby for nearly three decades, the iconic event pays tribute to individuals who embody the humanitarian ideals of Jackie Robinson and raises funds for the Jackie Robinson Foundation, which provides four-year college scholarships, graduate school grants and extensive mentoring to academically distinguished minority students with financial need and records of leadership capacity. John McGlade, Chairman, President and CEO of Air Products will serve as Event Chair.

The star-studded 2009 Annual Awards Dinner promises to be an unforgettable evening as the Foundation honors **Robin Roberts**, *Good Morning America* co-host, recognizing not only her own pioneering career in broadcasting, but her unwavering commitment to advancing social change through her reporting. World renowned physician, educator and Director of Pediatric Neurosurgery at John Hopkins University, **Dr. Benjamin Carson, Sr.**, will also be honored. His breakthrough research and patient care has dramatically improved the human condition and he has served as a mentor and role model for scores of African American youth across the country who dream of becoming physicians. In addition, the Foundation will also honor **Robert Redford**, Founder of the Sundance Film Festival and one of the most iconic actors of our time. This entrepreneur and trailblazer in the world of cinema has spent his career opening doors for many giving voice to young filmmakers. Dr. Bill Cosby will grace the stage as host of the evening.

## NEWS RELEASE



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The JRF Annual Awards Dinner has recognized some of the most decorated names in business, politics, education, media, sports and the arts, including Bishop Desmond Tutu, J. W. Marriott, Jr., Clive Davis, Spike Lee, Ruth J. Simmons, Henry L. "Hank" Aaron, John A. Thain, John Welch Jr., Ella Fitzgerald, George Lucas, Marian Wright Edelman, Arthur Ashe, Michael Jordan, Tom Brokaw, Dr. Sheila C. Johnson and Katharine Graham.

Established in 1973, the Jackie Robinson Foundation (JRF) is the nation's premier education and leadership development program. Transcending financial assistance, the Foundation equips its scholarship recipients with a comprehensive set of support services including mentoring, career guidance and practical life skills, resulting in a nearly 100% graduation rate, more than twice the national average for minority students. The over 1,200 JRF alumni are both leaders in their professional fields and consummate ambassadors of Jackie Robinson's legacy of community service. This academic year (2007-2008), JRF is providing scholarship assistance and program support to 279 Jackie Robinson Foundation students representing 34 states and enrolled in 106 different colleges and universities across the country. For tickets or additional information regarding the JRF Annual Awards Dinner, please contact the Foundation at (212) 290-8600. Individual tickets are available for \$1,000 with tables and sponsorships ranging from \$15,000 to \$100,000. Advertising opportunities are available in the special commemorative JRF Annual Awards Dinner program for \$5,000. For more information about JRF, please visit [www.jackierobinson.org](http://www.jackierobinson.org).