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For Immediate Release

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**Thomas and Jeanne Elmezzi Private Foundation Staff Selected for
Philanthropic Sector's Premier Leadership Development Program**

(Astoria, New York, January 13, 2017)—The Thomas and Jeanne Elmezzi Private Foundation is proud to announce that Pooja Joshi O'Hanlon has been selected to participate in the Council on Foundations' 2017 Career Pathways program. This intensive, year-long leadership development program is designed to foster diverse talent and excellence among the philanthropic sector's senior executives. Participants will graduate from the program with the knowledge, experience, and professional networks needed to be more effective in their current roles and more deliberate in their contributions to the field of philanthropy more broadly, positioning them to compete successfully for senior-level foundation positions.

As Executive Director of the Foundation, Pooja oversees all key programs. With over a decade of experience working in philanthropy and nonprofit, Pooja is looking forward to the professional and networking boost that Career Pathways offers. "I am very grateful for the opportunities I have been given. However, now I am interested in strengthening my leadership skills, enlarging my experience in philanthropy, and expanding my lens in order to continue being an effective and impactful grantmaker," said Pooja. "The Career Pathways program represents a natural fit of the opportunity with Pooja's interest in continuing to grow and advance in philanthropy. The Foundation and I are committed to supporting her participation as it not only benefits us but also the sector as a whole," said Jose Rivero, Chairman and President.

The Council is committed to a diverse and inclusive agenda for the field of philanthropy. Career Pathways is just one program in a suite of activities offered by the Council that is focused on diversity, equity, and inclusion. Through the Career Pathways program, the Council seeks to increase the number of candidates from diverse backgrounds in the leadership pipeline and strengthen the capacity of the philanthropic sector to grow and retain diverse talent.

Over the course of a year, Pooja will participate in virtual and in-person learning, networking events, and career training facilitated by expert faculty representing senior executives and trustees in the field of philanthropy as well as experts from other sectors.

"This was an extraordinarily competitive year for the program, and the 2017 Career Pathways cohort is truly outstanding" said President and CEO Vikki Spruill. "These 24 individuals are remarkably talented and have shown themselves to have a deep commitment to the principals of diversity,

equity, and inclusion and a calling to be of service to the field of philanthropy. Career Pathways will prepare them to be the next generation of leaders who will drive the sector's efforts to improve lives and build vibrant communities."

The 2017 Career Pathways class includes:

- **Kay Fernandez Smith**, Assistant Vice President, The San Francisco Foundation
- **Makeba Hill**, Deputy to the President & Chief Planner, The Andrew W Mellon Foundation
- **Desiree Flores**, Director, U.S. Social Justice Program, Arcus Foundation
- **Ling Liu**, Director of Communications & Community Engagement, Lucile Packard Foundation for Children's Health
- **Karissa Lowe**, Knowledge & Data Manager, Meyer Memorial Trust
- **Meron Makonnen**, Director of Legal Services, The ELMA Philanthropies Services US Inc.
- **Johngerlyn "Jonse" Young**, Director of Philanthropic Services, Grand Rapids Community Foundation
- **Felicia DeHaney**, Director of Education & Learning, W.K. Kellogg Foundation
- **Leah Hamilton**, Director of Education, The Barr Foundation
- **Joe Braun**, Director of Finance & Development, Fond Du Lac Area Foundation
- **Marcus McGrew**, Director of Program Operations and Information Management, The Kresge Foundation
- **Maggi Alexander**, Partner, Center for Global Philanthropy, The Philanthropic Initiative
- **Duchesne Drew**, Community Network Vice President, The Bush Foundation
- **David McGhee**, Program Director, The Skillman Foundation
- **Prasangi Ranaweera**, Senior Portfolio Manager, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation
- **Karin Krslovic**, Grants Manager, Ford Foundation
- **Melina Sanchez**, Program Officer, The James Irvine Foundation
- **Brennan Gould**, Director of Programs, Charlottesville Area Community Foundation
- **LaTese Briggs**, Director of Programs & Strategy, Milken Institute
- **Leslie Gross Davis**, Program Director, Equality, U.S. Programs, Open Society Foundations
- **Pooja O'Hanlon**, Executive Director, Thomas and Jeanne Elmezzi Private Foundation
- **Jennifer Price-Letscher**, Director, Programs & Special Projects, The Ralph M. Parsons Foundation
- **David Daniels**, Senior Director of Operations, Bainum Family Foundation
- **Rochelle Witharana**, Controller/Director of Finance, The California Wellness Foundation

To learn more about the Career Pathways program, please visit www.cof.org/careerpathways

To learn more about the Thomas and Jeanne Elmezzi Private Foundation, please visit www.elmezzi.org

Career Pathways is made possible thanks to generous funding support from [The Duke Endowment](#), [The Kresge Foundation](#), and the [W.K. Kellogg Foundation](#).

About the Thomas and Jeanne Elmezzzi Private Foundation

The mission of the Thomas and Jeanne Elmezzzi Private Foundation is to encourage and support programs that directly provide assistance to individuals who—due to either environment or circumstance—have not had the opportunity or ability to live independent and productive lives. The Elmezzzi Foundation is committed to funding charitable organizations that support programs in education, youth development, support for the elderly, and medical research; and it strives to have a direct and measurable impact on the quality of individual lives, either through sponsorship or innovative program design and development. The Foundation’s current geographic focus is Long Island City and Astoria, two specific communities in Queens, New York.

About the Council on Foundations

An active philanthropic network, the Council on Foundations (www.cof.org), founded in 1949, is a nonprofit leadership association of grantmaking foundations and corporations. It provides the opportunity, leadership, and tools needed by philanthropic organizations to expand, enhance and sustain their ability to advance the common good. With members from all foundation types and sizes, the Council empowers professionals in philanthropy to meet today’s toughest challenges and advances a culture of charitable giving in the U.S. and globally.