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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Kansas Breastfeeding Coalition Awards \$4,000 in Scholarships

Addressing racial disparities in breastfeeding by identifying, encouraging and supporting breastfeeding advocates in new and innovative ways.

MANHATTAN, Kansas. (August 4, 2021) – The Kansas Breastfeeding Coalition (KBC) awarded \$4,000 in educational scholarships to support Latinx and Black individuals to provide lactation support in their communities.

We have made great strides in Kansas with over 90% of families choosing to breastfeed. Yet, breastfeeding rates amongst our communities of color are nearly 9% lower than the state average. There should not be gaps in breastfeeding rates between racial and ethnic groups. We are all Kansans.

The KBC is committed to addressing racial disparities in breastfeeding by identifying, encouraging and supporting breastfeeding advocates in new and innovative ways. In alignment with this goal, the KBC is pleased to award \$4,000 in scholarships to support aspiring Latinx and Black lactation support providers in Topeka (2), Wichita (1) and Dodge City (1).

These scholars provided written statement sharing their vision and passion for helping diverse families. They have demonstrated their commitment to support these communities by seeking to further their education in the lactation field.

“Breastfeeding is important for the health and wellbeing of both the parent and the child. We are excited to work with these individuals to build a diverse lactation support workforce so families in Kansas can receive culturally congruent care,” said Stephanie Rupnicki, Chair of the KBC Board of Directors.

The KBC will continue to support these scholarship recipients in the pursuit of their goals. The KBC hopes to find more ways to contribute to equity in breastfeeding for all Kansans.

The Kansas Breastfeeding Coalition is a non-profit organization of working collaboratively to promote, support, and protect breastfeeding in order to improve the health and wellbeing of Kansas families.

Mission To improve the health and well-being of Kansans by working collaboratively to promote, protect and support breastfeeding.

Vision Breastfeeding is normal and supported throughout Kansas.

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If you'd like more information about this topic or would like to schedule an interview with Treva Smith, KBC Co-Executive Director, call (816) 456-8189 or email treva@ksbreastfeeding.org.

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