



For Immediate Release

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**President and Chair of Haitian-American Foundation for Democracy Dr. Jean-Philippe Austin joins Board of Visitors of the Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation**

**Florida, FL (May 23, 2023)** The Haitian-American Foundation for Democracy (HAFFD) is pleased to announce the appointment of its board chairman, Dr. Jean-Philippe Austin, to the Board of Visitors for the Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation (WHINSEC) by the United States Department of Defense.

“Dr. Austin is the gold-standard for Haitian-American excellence. His leadership and vision will help shape the future of our organization. Dr. Austin has demonstrated that he is and will remain laser-focused on being the change we want to see in the Haitian community and we are excited to see how he will leverage his expertise and ingenuity into furthering the success of the Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation ,” says Patrick Gaspard, HAFFD Board Member.

The Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation Board of Visitors is a Federal Advisory Committee established by Congress. WHINSEC provides professional military education and training to eligible U.S. and Partner Nation, Joint Interagency, Intergovernmental, and Multinational (JIIM) organization personnel. Since 2001, WHINSEC has championed human rights and democracy by developing a new generation of ethical leaders to confront the uncertain and complex security challenges of the Western Hemisphere

A graduate of both New York University and SUNY Downstate Medical School, Dr. Austin was born in Haiti. He and his parents escaped the Papa Doc Duvalier regime and fled to New York when he was just nine years old. It was during his formative years in New York that he became immersed in a world where ideals of social justice and democracy were uplifted before he eventually relocated to South Florida. As his medical practice thrived, so did his passion for social justice and political empowerment.

Throughout his illustrious career, Dr. Austin served as a member of former President Obama’s National Finance Committee and as Florida Finance Chair for the Democratic National Committee.



“The mission of WHINSEC resonates with me on a deeply personal level. I’ve spent my entire life building relationships and encouraging participatory democracy. It is my hope that I can continue doing this by simply raising awareness, and engaging others in taking a more active role in social and political empowerment. My wife and I have been doing this work for years, and I am thrilled to be able to continue laying this foundation through WHINSEC”, said Dr. Austin.

Dr. Austin joins a board of five members including: Ambassador Liliana Ayalde, Monsignor Steven V. Carlson, Ms. Annie Pforzheimer, and Ms. Johanna Cervone.

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**About Haitian American Foundation for Democracy:** Haitian American Foundation for Democracy (HAFFD) **engages the Haitian American diaspora and promote policies that foster democracy, human rights, economic development and inclusion.** The **Haitian-American Foundation for Democracy’s** Board of Directors, is composed of a stellar group of renowned men and women, all leaders who have worked to advance community interests for decades.