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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Arkansas Baptist College Announces Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame Member Sidney Moncrief as 138<sup>th</sup> Commencement Speaker**

**April 28, 2022** – Interim President Regina Favors and the Arkansas Baptist Board of Directors are proud to announce that Mr. Sidney Moncrief will be the keynote speaker at the venerable institution's 138<sup>th</sup> commencement ceremonies. The event will take place on Saturday, April 30, 2022, at The Church at Rock Creek, Little Rock, AR at 10:00 AM.

A proud native of Little Rock, Arkansas, Moncrief led the resurgence of Razorback basketball, playing in the Final Four in 1978. Picked fifth overall in the 1979 NBA Draft by the Milwaukee Bucks, Moncrief's professional career is replete with league honors including twice being named NBA Defensive Player of the Year, a five-time NBA All-Star, five-time member of the league's All Defensive Team, and an NBA All-Pro. The culmination of his basketball career was being inducted into the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame in 2019.

After retirement, Moncrief embarked on 34 years of entrepreneurship that has seen the establishment of six successful companies, and he is currently the managing partner of Moncrief One Team - a people development company specializing in Team Enhancement, Leadership, Diversity and Inclusion, and Career Readiness. He is also the author of eight books, the most recent entitled, "The G.R.I.T. Factor, Embracing Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion."

President Favors commented, "*The graduates, faculty, and staff of Arkansas Baptist are looking forward to hearing Mr. Moncrief's life message of discipline and hard work. Many know him as a great basketball player, but he is also a successful entrepreneur and author. Everyone is looking to his inspirational commencement address.*"

Arkansas Baptist College, originally named the Minister's Institute, was founded in 1884 by the Colored Baptists of Arkansas. In April 1885, the name of the College was changed to Arkansas Baptist College. The institution is an urban Historically Black College located in the storied Little Rock Central High District of the city. It is the only Baptist-affiliated HBCU west of the Mississippi and continues to be supported by the Consolidated Missionary Baptist State Convention. The current mission of the College is to prepare students for a life of service grounded in academic scholarship, the liberal arts tradition, social responsibility, Christian Development, and preparation for employment in a global community.

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