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News Release

**Midwest Bioethics Center Honored
with Marian Gray Secundy Sankofa Award**

*Award recognizes work to improve
end-of-life care for African Americans*

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Midwest Bioethics Center (MBC) will be the recipient of the first Marian Gray Secundy Sankofa Award during the "Last Miles of the Way Home" conference in Atlanta on February 27. The conference promotes improved end-of-life care for African Americans. Myra Christopher, MBC president and CEO, will accept the award on behalf of the Center.

Midwest Bioethics Center was chosen for the award to recognize its history of raising awareness around the disparities in healthcare access and treatment of African Americans. "We have a collision between people of color and the American healthcare system," Christopher says. "The Center has worked hard to shed light on that problem." MBC has convened community wide summits and has devoted numerous issues of the Center's *Bioethics Forum* to this topic.

In 1999, Christopher urged Dr. Secundy to accept a leadership position at a new organization created to right a serious wrong — the Tuskegee University National Center for Bioethics in Research and Health Care. Christopher was among many who supported Dr. Secundy during the Center's first months. She helped develop grant proposals for the APPEAL Project (A Progressive Palliative Care Educational Curriculum for the Care of African Americans at Life's End), and now serves on the project's national advisory board.

Dr. Secundy died December 17, 2002. "I'm one of many who deeply miss Marian," Christopher says. "I am honored and humbled to accept this award bearing her name."

Sankofa is a West African bird that flies forward while looking backward, representing the wisdom of learning from the past.