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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TAVIS SMILEY SPEAKS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CINCINNATI, APRIL 4, 2013
CHARLES PHELPS TAFT RESEARCH CENTER, UNIVERSITY OF CINCINNATI

Tavis Smiley, renowned author and public TV and radio host, will give the keynote address for the Annual Symposium of the Charles Phelps Taft Research Center at the University of Cincinnati on April 4, 2013, at 5 – 6 PM, in the MainStreet Cinema on the first floor of the Tangeman University Center. This event is free and open to the public.

The subject of the keynote address by Tavis Smiley will be economic inequality and poverty in America, and will focus on themes from his best-selling book, co-authored with Cornel West, *The Rich and the Rest of Us: A Poverty Manifesto*. In this game-changing text, they not only take on the “p” word — poverty — but challenges all Americans to re-examine their assumptions about poverty in America. Following the keynote address, the Taft Research Center will host a free, public reception in the Great Hall on the fourth floor of Tangeman University Center from 6:00 to 7:30 PM.

The following is a short biography of Tavis Smiley, President and CEO of the Smiley Group, Inc.: From his celebrated conversations with world figures to his work to inspire the next generation of leaders, as a broadcaster, author, advocate, and philanthropist, Tavis Smiley continues to be an outstanding voice for change. Currently, Smiley hosts the late-night television talk show Tavis Smiley on PBS, as well as The Tavis Smiley Show distributed by Public Radio International (PRI), and he is the co-host of Smiley & West, also distributed by PRI. Smiley and Dr. Cornel West co-wrote the New York Times best-selling book *The Rich and the Rest of Us: A Poverty Manifesto*.

Smiley is the first American to simultaneously host signature talk shows on both public television and public radio. In addition to his radio and television work, Smiley has written 16 books including the book he edited, *Covenant with Black America*, which became the first nonfiction book by a Black-owned publisher to reach #1 on the New York Times best-sellers list. He is also the presenter and creative force behind AMERICA I AM: The African American Imprint — an unprecedented traveling museum exhibition celebrating the extraordinary impact of African American contributions to our nation and to the world. In 2009, TIME magazine named him to its list of “The World’s 100 Most Influential People.” This year, 2013, Tavis Smiley celebrates 10 years on PBS.

For more information, please contact the Taft Research Center at taftcenter@uc.edu or (513) 556-0675.



PO Box 210369 • University of Cincinnati • Cincinnati, OH 45221-0369
513.556.0675 • Taft Secretary Email: taftcenter@uc.edu • www.artsci.uc.edu/taft