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## REVISED PRESS RELEASE

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**CORRECTION:** When originally distributed on May 13, 2014, this document read:  
"This year's awards will bring TAAA's scholarship grants total to nearly \$90,000."  
The correct total is \$98,000.

## **TRACY AFRICAN AMERICAN ASSOCIATION GRANTS 2014 ACADEMIC SCHOLARSHIPS TO SIX TRACY-AREA STUDENTS** *Scholars to be Recognized at 2014 Juneteenth Celebration / Sat., June 7<sup>th</sup>* *"From Our Roots Come Greatness"*

**TRACY, CA:** Tracy African American Association, LLC. (TAAA) announced today the names of six Tracy-area high school students to whom it will award its **Wayne Nelson Academic Scholarship** grants for their respective academic achievements and community contributions. The organization places special emphasis on youth mentorship and education, and gears nearly all of its events and activities toward fundraising to benefit its scholarship program, or contribute to other projects that support children and youth as the organization promotes diversity and ethnic pride as a practice.

Annually, TAAA provides scholarships—named for late TAAA member and education advocate Wayne Nelson—to enrich educational opportunities for college-bound African American students who are graduating from Tracy, CA high schools. Scholarships are awarded to high school seniors who apply, meet specific academic and social requirements, and who are entering an accredited college or university on a full-time basis. This year's awards will bring TAAA's scholarship grants total to nearly \$98,000.\* In recognition of individual scholarship donors, this year's awards are made possible by Robert Burney, Leon & Marni Churchill, Christian & Catherine Chukwuma, Jass Sangha, Edmond & Gwendolyn White and Tolbert Young Jr. & Sarah E. Sanford.

### 2014 WAYNE NELSON ACADEMIC SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

John C. Kimball High School: *Zaniah Bradshaw, Arsema Hawariat*

Tracy High School: *Eric Hawkins*

Merrill F. West High School: *Lydia Young*

Millennium High School: *Morgan Johnson*

Ripon Christian High School: *Courtney Perrilliot (President's award)*

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TAAA president James Young Jr. said, "We are grateful to everyone who supported our fundraising efforts throughout the year, especially the individual citizens and companies that made generous contributions to the 2014 scholarship fund and Juneteenth Festival." Scholarship certificates will be presented to students during TAAA's 20th annual Juneteenth celebration, to be held from 10:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m. Saturday, June 7th at Tracy's recently-upgraded Lincoln Park, located at East Street and North Eaton Avenue.

The Juneteenth Festival is themed "**From Our Roots Come Greatness**" in celebration of Tracy African American Association's 20th anniversary. The event is admission-free; and everyone is invited to join in the day-long celebration, a fun event for the entire family. Tracy's own drummer extraordinaire and 'aspiring' comic Carlton Edwards will emcee the day's program, intermingling his own brand of clean and clever humor. Near the end of the day's activities, popular and multi-music genre band The Cradle of Sound, featuring vocalist De Anna Del Rio, will headline the diverse entertainment lineup. The event will provide a vast food variety, exhibitors, arts & craft vendors, kid's corner, free health screenings and more. Local talents will perform throughout the day and attendees will enjoy visiting with friends and neighbors, dancing and winning raffle prizes, many provided by event vendors and exhibitors.

When speaking about the importance of higher education, TAAA Education Chairperson Howard Baker Jr. said, "I am greatly impressed with this year's applicants, their accomplishments and their stated career paths. I can't stress enough to students the importance of early planning for higher learning—beginning in middle school—so that students can begin to take classes in preparation for high school and college."

TAAA is grateful to its 2014 Juneteenth Festival corporate sponsors and supporters, including (**GOLD**): Kiona's Farm'acy; (**SILVER**): McDonald's and Sutter Tracy Community Hospital; and (**BRONZE**): City of Tracy, Fresh Coat Painters Central Valley, Health Plan of San Joaquin, Imara Realty, Prudential California Realty, San Joaquin Delta College, Tracy Delta Solid Waste Management, Inc., Uncle Credit Union and Tracy Walmart Supercenter.

#### **ABOUT JUNETEENTH:**

Juneteenth observes that on June 19, 1865 slaves in Galveston, Texas learned the Civil War had ended and they were now free. (Note: This announcement came two and a half years after President Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation, which had become official Jan. 1, 1863). Upon hearing the news, the slaves celebrated in jubilation with song, dance and food. Since that time, slave descendents throughout the United States have carried on the celebratory tradition.

In the year in which TAAA excitedly observes its 20th consecutive year hosting, sponsoring and contributing to programs that benefit young people and its community, will once again observe and celebrate learning of the end of slavery by hosting its 20th annual Juneteenth Festival.

#### **ABOUT TRACY AFRICAN AMERICAN ASSOCIATION, LLC:**

The Tracy African American Association (TAAA) is a non-profit organization established in 1994 by a group of concerned professionals seeking to form ties among African Americans and other members of the Tracy Community. Its mission is to unite people of all ages and backgrounds through sponsorships and contributions to educational, cultural and social programs that foster awareness, diversity, and a cooperative environment that unite the Tracy Community. Membership is open to individuals who share and embrace the TAAA mission. [www.TAAA.net](http://www.TAAA.net)

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