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TRACY AFRICAN AMERICAN ASSOCIATION GRANTS 2015 ACADEMIC SCHOLARSHIPS TO FIVE TRACY-AREA STUDENTS

Scholars to be Recognized at 2015 Juneteenth Celebration / Sat., June 6th

"From Our Roots Come Greatness"

TRACY, CA: Tracy African American Association, LLC. (TAAA) announced today the names of five Tracy-area high school students to whom it will award its 2015 **Wayne Nelson Academic Scholarship** grants for their respective academic achievements and community contributions. 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 \$105,000.

2015 WAYNE NELSON ACADEMIC SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Matteya Cobbs, John C. Kimball High School
Rashaad Cooper, John C. Kimball High School
Kyra McIntyre, Merrill F. West High School
Malik Ransom, John C. Kimball High School
Trishana Wilson, Merrill F. West High School

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 2015 scholarship fund and Juneteenth Festival." Scholarship certificates will be presented to students during TAAA's 21st annual Juneteenth celebration, to be held from 10:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m. Saturday, June 6th at Tracy's Lincoln Park, located at East Street and North Eaton Avenue.

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The Juneteenth Festival is themed "**From Our Roots Come Greatness**" in recognition of 21 years that Tracy African American Association has served its community. The event is admission-free; and everyone is invited to join in the day-long celebration, a fun event for the entire family. Doing double duty will be Brandie Owusu-Spencer (AKA "DJ Apex"), Executive Director of Empowering Young Voices, Inc. and acting president of The African American Chamber of Commerce of San Joaquin. He will alternate roles as emcee and deejay for the event. Varied genre performers will volunteer their artistic talents for everyone's enjoyment. The second half of the day's activities will feature young vocalists, dancers and spoken word artists presented by BMikeRob Entertainment Management. The event will provide a vast food variety, exhibitors, arts & craft vendors, kid's corner and more. Attendees will enjoy visiting with friends and neighbors, dancing and winning raffle prizes, many provided by event vendors and exhibitors. [Juneteenth celebration promo](#)

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 2015 Juneteenth Festival corporate sponsors including Sutter Tracy Community Hospital, Tracy Hills, City of Tracy, Imara Realty, McDonald's, Surland Companies, and Tracy Delta Solid Waste Management, Inc., along with numerous community supporters and scholarship donor, the Russell S. Kagehiro family.

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 21st consecutive year hosting, sponsoring and contributing to programs that benefit young people and its community, the organization will once again observe and celebrate learning of the end of slavery by hosting its 21st 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

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