

Tracy African American Association Newsletter



Tracy African American Association Presents Wayne Nelson Scholarships To 11 Recipients

The Wayne Nelson Scholarship winners* were presented to the public at the TAAA 17th Annual Juneteenth Festival held at Dr. Powers Park. Students were presented to the Juneteenth audience by TAAA President, Howard Baker and Education Chair, Paul Hall.



Ayanna Mcgee will attend UC Santa Barbara. Majoring Biological Psychology.

Austen King will attend San Jose State. Majoring in Electrical Engineer-



Each student addressed the audience with a brief statement about the school they will attend and their major course of study. Their majors represented a broad cross section of academic disciplines and future vocational skills.



Shannal Hawkins will attend the University of the Pacific. Majoring in Business

Ebelechukwu Obi will attend Dartmouth. Majoring in Psychology



The value of the Wayne Nelson Scholarship has increased due to mounting college cost. We expect these students to earn more honors as they advance through college and their career paths.

The path leading to high school graduation is one of the most monumental undertaking that our young people can achieve. It is the gateway to the future.

Helping to guide the TAAA's Wayne Nelson Scholarship winners into future were the members from the education, civic and business communities .

Words of encouragement and optimism were given to the scholarship recipients and all other students who aspire to have college as a future goal.



Dr. James Franco, TSUD Superintendent

Leon Churchill, Tracy City Manager



Our guest speakers* also applauded the parents for the hard work and support given to their children over the past four years of high school. It was stated in many different ways, parental involvement is and always will be a major component in a child's academic success.



Bob Elliot, Tracy City Council Member

Michael Maceil, Tracy Mayor Pro Tem



Comments from our guest speakers are for the promotion of quality education, good citizenship and the hope that each of the recipients will return to Tracy and share their education and skills.

Tracy community has demonstrated strong support for the Wayne Nelson Scholarship. Tracy African American Association is grateful for community support.

Those students who go on to college reach from an upper run of the ladder. Education is the continuous improvement program for the family, community, and nation.

*For a complete list and photo of all the scholarship winners and guest speakers goto our web site:
<http://www.taaa.net/Pictures%202011%20and%20html/2011%20Juneteenth%20Festval%20Page/Speaker%20Page1.html>

Visit Our Web Site www.taaa.net

Education is a thread in the fabric of success.

17th Annual Juneteenth Festival

The day the word of freedom was passed into the slave population is a different day for every part of the country. That is why any day a celebration is held in June is called **JUNETEENTH!**

The Juneteenth celebration had a slow start for the high energy day that it became. Wayne Nelson Scholarship students were presented to the community. Entertainers performed, food vendors served, and displays of services and crafts were showcased.

The cloudy skies of June did not hold back Praise In Motion Dancers or singer Elisa "Shalom" Johnson.



Praise in Motion Dancers



Elisa "Shalom" Johnson

Culinary delights were served by Dhaba Indian Cuisine and Shorters Rib Pit & Catering to name a few.



Dhaba Indian Cuisine



Shorters Rib Pit and Catering

The health tent was anchored by:
Sutter Tracy Community Hospital
Avalon Family Dentistry



Some of the other booths that complimented the Juneteenth Festival were:

Tracy Performing Arts Foundation



Communicate Your Way



Spring Mixer at the E-Gallery

The second TAAA Mixer of the year was held at the E Gallery on April 29th of this year. This gathering saw the circulation of people from the various stratum of the Tracy community.

Representatives from the civic, commercial, culinary and entertainment industries were present. Ideas for commercial enterprise were explained. It was an opportunity for promoting business ventures. It was also a chance for those with entrepreneurial spirit to introduce themselves and test the water with their ideas.

Howard Baker, President of the Tracy African American Association, explained TAAA's purpose and plans for the future which includes increasing scholarship awards.

Fund raising activities and getting the message out about the TAAA scholarships was also shared with mixer guests by chair persons.

Contributions were made through out the evening from raffles and donations. Two participants in the gathering stepped forward and donated equal amounts that covered 2 of the 11 scholarships that were awarded this year.



Lourdes Colon



Jass Sanha

The TAAA acknowledges, with great appreciation, donations given to the Wayne Nelson Scholarship from Lourdes Colon and Jass Sanha.

Entertainment was provided by Johnas Street and Miss Rickey Nero. Mr. Street was an American Idol contestant. TAAA was honored to have the presence of this young entertainer at the beginning of a singing career. Miss Rickey Nero, wowed the gathering with her jazz renditions of popular songs. Miss Ricky Nero is a veteran entertainer who appears at night clubs and jazz concerts.



Miss Rickey Nero



Johnas Street

Visit Our Web Site www.taaa.net

Use the internet to connect to the Tracy Unified School District. Your child's future is at your finger tips. You can verify your child's requirements on line from home, work, or on the road. <http://www.tracy.k12.ca.us/Pages/MainHomePage.aspx>

