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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CORRECTED: Grants \$ Amount ... Addt'l Scholars Added

TRACY AFRICAN AMERICAN ASSOCIATION GRANTS 2018 ACADEMIC SCHOLARSHIPS TO NINE TRACY AREA STUDENTS

Scholars to be Recognized at 2018 Juneteenth Celebration / Sat., June 2nd

TRACY, CA: Tracy African American Association, LLC. (TAAA) announced today the names of nine Tracy-area high school students to whom it will award its 2018 **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 reside in Tracy and/or are graduating from Tracy, CA high schools. Scholarships are awarded to high school seniors who apply, meet specific academic and social requirements, and who will enter an accredited college or university on a full-time basis. With the help of generous sponsors and donors, this year's awards will bring TAAA's scholarship grants total to nearly \$129,500.

2018 WAYNE NELSON ACADEMIC SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Motunrayo Ayomide, John C. Kimball High School

Malik Frazer, Millennium High School

Shaelyn Hawkins, Tracy High School

Kaiya Ransom, John C. Kimball High School

Mila Rodriguez, Millennium High School

Tyler Williams, Modesto Christian High School

Dariae Willis, Kimball High School

Nathaniel Young, Merrill F. West High School

ZaJria Bradshaw, Mountain House High School

Scholarship certificates will be presented to students during TAAA's 24th annual Juneteenth celebration, to be held from 10:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. Saturday, June 2, 2018 at Tracy's Lincoln Park, located at East Street and North Eaton Avenue.

When speaking about the importance of higher education, Patricia A. Jackson TAAA Education Chairperson states, "The goal of this scholarship is to assist graduating students in the development of their minds, bodies, and spirits. Hebrews 12:1 reads, "Let us lay aside every weight...and let us run with patience the race that is set before us."

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The family-friendly event is admission-free; and everyone is invited to join in the day-long celebration, a fun event for the entire family. Varied genre performers will volunteer their artistic talents for everyone's live entertainment enjoyment. 2018 Juneteenth lead Yolande Knight to perform emcee duties. Andre Jakes will DJ recorded music while Tyner Sound Productions engineers the audio. Throughout the day, professional medical practitioners will provide free health screenings.

TAAA is grateful to its 2018 Juneteenth Festival corporate sponsors including Jackson Rancheria, San Joaquin Delta College, Surland Companies, Tracy Hills, Prologis, Tracy Delta Solid Waste Management, Inc., Tracy Signs, Ellis, and City of Tracy along with several generous community donors and supporters.

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 2018, TAAA excitedly observes its 24th 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 this year's 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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