



NAACP



**The Afro-Academic, Cultural
Technological, Scientific
Olympics**

For Immediate Release

Student From Ridge View High School Wins National Bronze Medal at NAACP ACT-SO Olympics

Student will receive \$1,000.00 in prize money and a laptop computer.

(Columbia, SC) July, 26, 2017 - On Friday, July 21st, hundreds of students gathered at the Baltimore Convention Center in Baltimore, Maryland for the 39th annual NAACP ACT-SO National Olympics. The top elected students from each state competed in 33 categories including performing arts, visual arts, sciences, entrepreneurship and humanities.

Six students (listed below) from Columbia, South Carolina participated at the event as representatives of their school, the district, the city of Columbia and the state of South Carolina.

- **Jeremiah Adams** (*Westwood High School Graduate*) - Entrepreneurship
- **Aaron Ford** (*Westwood High School incoming senior*) - Short Story
- **John Fortune** (*Richland Northeast High School incoming sophomore*) - Dance
- **Kierra Gray** (*Richland 2 Charter High School Graduate*) - Music & Music Vocal Classical
- **Kiara Hayes** (*Ridge View High School incoming senior*) - Music Vocal Classical
- **Aeriala Lane** (*Lower Richland High School incoming sophomore*) – Drawing & Painting

On Sunday, July 23rd, top three winners were announced for each category. **Kiara Hayes**, seventeen year old incoming senior at Ridge View High School, received a national bronze medal in the category of music vocal classical. Kiara will receive \$1,000.00, a laptop computer, and the title of national medalist & Olympian.

Shaun Adams, chairperson of the ACT-SO Columbia program, is excited to have a national ACT-SO medal in Columbia and hopes to bring home more national medalist at next year's ACT-SO Olympics.

High School students are encouraged to apply online for the 2018 season at www.ActsoColumbia.org. The mentoring program will start weekly workshops and master classes in October.

About ACT-SO

ACT-SO, a program by the NAACP, stands for Afro-Academic, Cultural, Technological and Scientific Olympics. It is a student enrichment mentoring program that culminates in a local and national competition where students compete for awards, scholarships and prizes.

Contact:

Shaun Adams
(973) 508-8888
www.ActsoColumbia.org
shaun@actsocolumbia.org

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Rev. Otis Outing, Columbia Branch NAACP President