FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 16, 2016

NAACP Contact: (562) 856-7586
Naomi Rainey, President
Long Beach Branch, NAACP

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Long Beach 2016 ACT-SO Gold Team

Long Beach Branch NAACP 2016 ACT-SO Gold Medalists are Camille Burrus, Mayfair High School, 12th Grade, Drawing and Painting, Daylon Flewelen, Paramount High School, 9th Grade, Instrumental Contemporary Music, Lydia Free, Los Angeles County HS, 12th grade, art, and Andre Charles Johnson, Loyola High School, 11th grade, photography. The overall cost to send the students to the competition in Cincinnati, Ohio is $6,000. $3,000 has been raised. Many of the talented team members need support due to other costly summer study programs to keep them on track in their area of study and family financial constraints. How can you help? Make a tax deductible contribution of $100, $200, $500, $1000 or more to enable a student participate, sponsor a child, and make a donation to ship their instrument or project. With your help, we can reach our goal of producing economically successful young adults that will not only benefit themselves, but the entire Long Beach Community. Donations may be sent to NAACP SIS/CIP Fund P.O. Box 1594 Long Beach, CA. 90801. For more information call (562)856-7586, email at mnaacp@gmail.com, and visit www.lbanaacp.org. Or you may make a Donation to Help Our Gold Medalists get to Cincinnati, Ohio, by donating to the GoFundMe Link. https://www.gofundme.com/28856r3f.

The National Competition will be held in Cincinnati, Ohio, July 16-20, 2016 during the NAACP National Convention. The LB NAACP ACT-SO Chair is Dr. Charles D. Smith. The other members of ACT-SO Committee are President Naomi Rainey, 1st Vice President Davian Freeman, Thyjuan Harris, Desiree Keys, Mrs. Marie Treadwell, Secretary, Lori Grace, and Dominique Labat. The ACT-SO Program is just one of the examples that demonstrate Long Beach Branch NAACP is making a difference for the youth of our community.

ACT-SO is an acronym for Academic, Cultural, Technological and Scientific Olympics. There are 32 categories of competition in the sciences, humanities, performing and visual arts. Vernon Jarrett, a renowned author and journalist, initiated the idea of a program that would promote and reward academic achievers the same way sports heroes are honored. ACT-SO is a yearlong enrichment program designed to recruit, stimulate, improve and encourage high academic and cultural achievement among African American high school students. The ACT-SO program centers around the dedication and commitment of community volunteers and business leaders; to serve as mentors and coaches to promote academic and artistic excellence among students of color, especially African American students. High school students, who are citizens of the United States, enrolled in grades 9-12 and are amateurs in the categories of competition are able to participate. Program participants are teamed up with coaches in their appropriate categories in order to sharpen their skills for the spring local competition.

ACT-SO alumni occupy a wide variety of careers including executive positions with corporations like Lockheed Martin and Citigroup—one serves as a vocal coach for FOX television’s “American Idol.” Famed ACT-SO alumni include musician Otto Ehling, Member of the writing team for Cirque Du Soleil, Elyjuh Rene, Contestant on The Voice, Kanye West, Roy Hargrove, Michael Beach, actress Jada Pinkett-Smith, filmmaker John Singleton and comedian Anthony Anderson.

Naomi Rainey, President of the Long Beach Branch NAACP, has been with the ACT-SO Program since its inception and urges you to support the program, by making a tax-deductible donation to the Long Beach Branch NAACP at P.O. Box 1594 Long Beach, CA 90801. For more information, please email mnaacp@gmail.com or call (562) 856-7586.