

WWW.ARLINGTONTXNAACP.ORG

# NAACP



The state of Texas, prepares to enter the Awards Ceremony at National ACT-SO Competition 2016 in Cincinnati.



Arlington NAACP 2016 ACT-SO Branch President, students, and ACT-SO Chair after the awards ceremony

## ACT-SO Mission

For over thirty years the mission of ACT-SO has been to prepare, recognize and reward youth of African descent who exemplify scholastic and artistic excellence.

The goals of ACT-SO are:

- To mobilize the adult community for the promotion of academic and artistic excellence.
- To recognize creative talent and academic achievement.
- To provide and assist students with the necessary skills to establish goals and acquire the confidence and training to make a successful contribution to society.

## Message from Arlington NAACP ACT-SO

*Welcome to Arlington NAACP's ACT-SO Program!*

The time has come for the world to see the promise of the future.

NAACP ACT-SO is the place for you to explore your academic and creative passions free from judgment. This is the place where professionals, mentors and your peers desire to see you succeed. Take advantage of your days in NAACP ACT-SO. Each moment helps shape your life within the NAACP and beyond.

Founded in 1909, the NAACP is the nation's oldest and largest civil rights organization. From the ballot box to the classroom, the thousands of dedicated workers, organizers, leaders and members who make up the NAACP continue to press for equality and fight for fairness and social justice for all Americans. In addition to being a civil rights organization, the Arlington NAACP takes seriously our responsibility to community service and providing enhanced education opportunities. The ACT-SO program allows us offer additional educational opportunities for students of color. We want students, parents and educators to learn more about ACT-SO at the national level by visiting ACT-SO on the web.

NAACPConnect.org is the official hub for all things NAACP ACT-SO online. NAACPConnect.org is the social networking hub for all of the youth and young adults in the NAACP to interact. It's the place for the brightest and best young people of color to showcase their talents, share best practices, ignite social change and build the best future possible.

Chart your course. Share your story. Change the world!

**Mr. Jason Thomas**

Chairperson  
ACT-SO@arlingtontxnaACP.org

**Mrs. Amanda Thomas**

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*Afro-Academic, Cultural, Technological and Scientific Olympics of the Mind Scholarship Program*



www.arlingtontxnaACP.org

National Association for the Advancement of Colored People  
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Alisa Simmons, President

ARLINGTON



# ACT-SO



# WHAT IS ACT-SO

Afro-Academic, Cultural, Technological and Scientific Olympics of the Mind Scholarship Program

*ACT-SO is a major youth initiative of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). ACT-SO provides a forum through which youth of African descent demonstrate academic, artistic and scientific prowess and expertise, thereby gaining the same recognition often only reserved for entertainers and athletes. ACT-SO is a **yearlong enrichment program** designed to stimulate, improve and enhance academic and cultural achievement among **African-American high school students**. **Community Volunteers, Professionals, Businesses support the program and serve as mentors and coaches.***

ACT-SO is a year-long youth achievement program that begins in the Fall of each year in local communities nationwide. In more than 200 local communities throughout the U.S., ACT-SO adult volunteers recruit students and mentors. Students work with mentors to beginning in the Fall to April to develop their projects and performances for the local competition. Mentors and students continue to work together in preparation for higher level of competition at the national NAACP convention each year in July.

ACT-SO is rooted in the firm conviction that all students can succeed and compete at the same or superior levels as their counterparts in classrooms, boardrooms and laboratories across this nation and abroad.

## WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF PARTICIPATING IN ACT-SO?

- ACT-SO is a learning experience
- Gold, Silver, Bronze Medals Awarded
- Awards, Cash Scholarships --\$ **1,000**, \$750 and \$500 in each category and Prizes Awarded at the National Competition
- Participants develop new skills and abilities

## WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO PARTICIPATE?

*African-American high school students* who are citizens of the United States enrolled in **grades 9 through 12** and are amateurs in the categories of competition. Students must compete in a local ACT-SO program to qualify for the National ACT-SO competition.

### Local Activities

- **August:** ACT-SO programs kick off ACT-SO Information Sessions at AISD, PDC.
- **September-March:** Arlington ACT-SO conduct mentoring and enrichment activities
- **Mar/Apr:** Arlington NAACP hosts ACT-SO competitions

Once local competitions are held, the gold medalists (those with scores between 95-100 in their category) are invited to compete on a national level. The National Competition, held every July in conjunction with the NAACP National Convention, is the ACT-SO culminating event.

### National Competition

- **March/April - July:** Students continue their local mentorship and enrichment programs to prepare for the National Competition.
- **July:** Annual activities culminate with National Competition and Awards Ceremony

### Participation Opportunities

ACT-SO is a community based program that provides multiple opportunities for involvement. Community members may participate as: Chairpersons, mentors, sponsors, organizers, competitors, benefactors, educational partners, etc.. The program receives support from schools, local businesses, community organizations, churches, foundations, major corporations and individuals. For more detailed criteria and information about how to get involved, please contact the National ACT-SO office.

Students can select up to 3 categories of competition from a total of 26 offerings. The 26 ACT-SO categories of competition include:

## ACT- SO COMPETITION CATEGORIES

### BUSINESS:

- Entrepreneurship

### CULINARY:

- Culinary Arts
- Culinary Arts (Team) TBD

### HUMANITIES:

- Music Composition
- Original Essay
- Playwriting
- Poetry-Written
- Short Story

### PERFORMING ARTS:

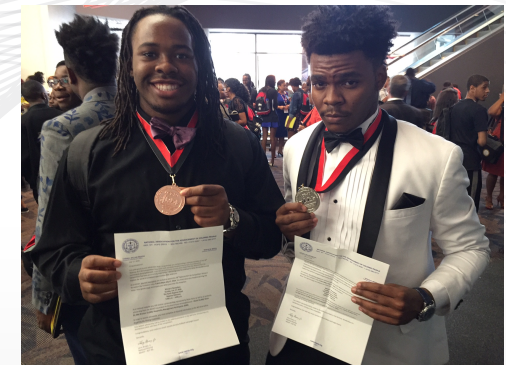
- Dance: Ballet
- Dance: Contemporary
- Dance: Modern
- Dance: Traditional
- Dramatics
- Music: Instrumental-Classical
- Music: Instrumental-Contemporary
- Music: Vocal-Classical
- Music: Vocal-Contemporary
- Oratory

### STEM:

- Architecture
- Biology/Microbiology
- Chemistry/Biochemistry
- Computer Science
- Earth and Space Science
- Engineering
- Mathematics
- Medicine and Health
- Physics

### VISUAL ARTS:

- Drawing
- Filmmaking
- Painting
- Photography
- Sculpture



Kalen McGuire and Yumon King,  
Arlington ACT-SO medalist  
National ACT-SO Competition  
Cincinnati- 2016