



DuPage County NAACP

Serving DuPage, Kane, Kendall and Will Counties

Unit 3012

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DUPAGE COUNTY ACT-SO BRINGS HOME GOLD FROM NATIONAL COMPETITION

LISLE, IL – Four high school students from the DuPage County ACT-SO chapter faced off against over 500 other youth that were also local gold medalists, last Friday, at the National ACT-SO competition to win two national Gold medals, one Silver and one Bronze. The ACT-SO competition was part of the NAACP's 104th National Convention being held in Orlando, FL, July 10-17.

"Since the year 2000, for 12 years our students have won medals at the national level," said Dorletta Payton, Chair of DuPage County ACT-SO. "Our wins speak to all the hard work our students do throughout the year and their commitment to being the best they can be."

DuPage County ACT-SO 2013 National winners include:

- **Justin Payton** - Bolingbrook HS - 10th, Entrepreneurship - GOLD
- **Tavis Reed** - Oswego East HS - 9th, Music Composition - GOLD
- **Kalin Reed** - Oswego East HS - 12th, Architecture - SILVER
- **Samuel Sentongo** - Providence St. Mel - 12th, Earth and Space Sciences - BRONZE

"We have to thank our mentors, partner schools, sponsors, parents, and many other volunteers who support ACT-SO," Payton said. "Our students are successful because the adults give their time, commitment and knowledge; they do a great job of keeping the kids motivated."

DuPage County ACT-SO had a total of 12 students compete in Orlando. The students all won local gold medals in their respective categories at the DuPage County ACT-SO local competition that was held in March. This year, the 26 categories of competition were expanded to include one new category for Culinary Arts that is being piloted in 5 chapters across the nation.

ACT-SO, also called "The Olympics of the Mind," is a program of the NAACP. ACT-SO has helped more than 260,000 young people in 200+ communities across the country open new doors to learning and define career paths, since its inception 35 years ago. The program features three components: mentoring, academic enrichment, and competition.

DuPage County ACT-SO is a program of the DuPage County Branch of the NAACP and is sponsored by the College of DuPage and the DuPage Regional Office of Education. To get involved and learn more about DuPage County ACT-SO please visit www.dupageact-so.org or call 331-462-2876.

About the DuPage County Branch NAACP

Founded in 1909, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) is the nation's oldest and largest civil rights organization. Its members throughout the United States and the world are the premier advocates for civil rights in their communities, conducting voter mobilization and monitoring equal opportunity in the public and private sectors.

The DuPage County Branch of the NAACP has been active in the County and surrounding areas including Will, Kendall and Kane Counties for more than 50 years, since it was chartered in November 1956. The Branch has grown to the second largest in the state of Illinois, raised significant funding for the Syd Finley Memorial Scholarship, and produced several National Medalists from the Afro-Academic, Cultural, Technological and Scientific Olympics (ACT-SO) competition.

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