The NAACP’s Afro-Academic, Cultural, Technological and Scientific Olympics (ACT-SO) is a yearlong achievement program designed to recruit, stimulate, and encourage high academic and cultural achievement among African-American high school students. For over forty years the mission of ACT-SO has been to prepare, recognize and reward students who exemplify scholastic and artistic excellence. ACT-SO was founded in 1978 by well-known African-American journalist Vernon Jarrett.

ACT-SO includes 32 competition areas in STEM, humanities, business, and performing, visual and culinary arts. Nearly 300,000 youth from more than 200 communities have participated from the program since its inception.

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.

The NAACP Saginaw Branch has a long and accomplished history of participation in the ACT-SO program. Local students have earned more than 40 national medal honors since 1988.

John Pugh, Chair NAACP Saginaw Branch ACT-SO Program

Special tribute and acknowledgement are extended to John Pugh, who has served as the Chair and leader of the NAACP Saginaw ACT-SO program for thirty-one years. Mr. Pugh’s support and commitment to the success of Saginaw area youth is well documented and widely acknowledged. He has spent three decades encouraging, developing and promoting ACT-SO participants. We also acknowledge the many years of dedicated support to the local ACT-SO program by Canika Owen-Robinson, who has served as Co-Chair of ACT-SO for nearly twenty years.

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The roster of Saginaw’s ACT-SO winners has been consistently impressive. Local national medalists include:

1988  Khary Bridgewater – Gold, Energy
1990  Khary Bridgewater – Gold, Physics: Energy
1992  Akira C. Shelton – Bronze, Music: Instrumental Contemporary
      Jason Williams – Silver, Original Essay
1997  Eleluhue Crudup – Gold, Playwriting
1998  Hubert Alexander – Bronze, Physics: Energy
      Eleluhue Crudup – Silver, Playwriting
2001  Ryan McBride – Bronze, Playwriting
2002  Ryan McBride – Gold, Playwriting
2003  Ryan McBride – Silver, Playwriting
2004  Shaneditha Butler – Gold, Architecture
      Quintisha Walker – Silver, Microbiology
2005  Quintisha Walker – Gold, Microbiology
      David McMillon – Gold, Engineering
2006  Quintisha Walker – Gold, Microbiology
      David McMillon – Gold, Engineering
      Morgan McMillon – Gold, Music Instrumental Classical
      Jessica Reedy – Gold, Music Vocal Contemporary
2007  Alexandrya Bardell – Bronze, Microbiology
      David McMillion – Gold, Earth & Space Sciences
      Christian Robinson – Gold, Engineering
      Morgan McMillion – Bronze, Music Instrumental Classical
2008  David McMillion – Silver, Earth & Space Sciences
      Christian Robinson – Gold, Engineering
      David McMillion – Silver, Mathematics
      Nolan Ford – Gold, Medicine and Health
2009  Erica Trigg – Gold, Earth & Space Sciences
2010  Jordan Drake – Bronze, Chemistry
      DMontae Jones – Gold, Engineering
      DMontae Jones – Silver Music: Composition
      Sharnae Ruth – Gold, Vocal Music Contemporary
2011  Savonna Brown – Gold, Poetry
      Jordan Drake – Silver Engineering
      Alliecia Butler – Silver Entrepreneurship
      Jamal Yearwood – Silver, Microbiology
2012  Andrea Pugh – Gold, Earth & Space Sciences
      Lauren Ingram – Silver, Mathematics
      Jordan Drake – Bronze, Music: Instrumental Classical
2013  Tyrek Brown – Gold, Physics
2014  Tyrek Brown – Silver, Computer Science
      Tyrek Brown – Bronze, Physics
2015  Tyrek Brown – Computer Science
2016  Cameron Terry – Gold, Computer Science
$8,000 donation from AT&T to culturally stimulate ACT-SO students
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Saginaw NAACP ACT-SO Chair, John Pugh joins is pictured with 2018 National ACT-SO Competitors held in San Antonio, Texas. The group received major support from AT&T to assist their effort.