



Saginaw Branch NAACP

100 Years Fighting the Battle for Justice and Equality
1919-2019

..... About The ACT-SO Program

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
- 1991** Khary Bridgewater – Gold, Physics: Energy
- 1992** Akira C. Shelton – Bronze, Music: Instrumental Contemporary
Jason Williams – Silver, Original Essay
- 1997** Eleluehue Crudup – Gold, Playwriting
- 1998** Hubert Alexander – Bronze, Physics: Energy
Eleluehue Crudup – Silver, Playwriting
- 2001** Ryan McBride – Bronze, Playwriting
- 2002** Ryan McBride – Gold, Playwriting
- 2003** Ryan McBride – Silver, Playwriting
- 2004** Shanedita 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 McMillon – Gold, Earth & Space Sciences
Christian Robinson – Gold, Engineering
Morgan McMillon – Bronze, Music Instrumental Classical
- 2008** David McMillon – Silver, Earth & Space Sciences
Christian Robinson – Gold, Engineering
David McMillon – 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.