



For Immediate Release

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HRBMP Announces This Year's High School, College Scholarship Awardees

College students hail from four local universities while two high school winners reside in Hampton and Chesapeake

NORFOLK, Va - Winners of the **Hampton Roads Black Media Professionals'** 2015 Journalism/Media Scholarships were officially announced.

Seven students won scholarships totaling \$4,500. Five are local college students while the high school seniors attend school in Hampton and Chesapeake. The monies will go toward furthering or starting their studies in the fields of journalism or other mass communication majors.

The college winners are: **Tykhari Coles** of Norfolk State University, **Alexis Platt** of Virginia Wesleyan College, **Kalynne Wilson** of Regent University, and **Arriana McLymore** and **Ashanté Travis**, both of Hampton University. Travis was awarded \$1,000, while the others received \$500 each.

In addition, this marks the third win for Coles, a current mass communications and journalism junior at NSU. In addition to being awarded a previous HRBMP scholarship while in college, the current multimedia editor of the university's *Spartan Echo* newspaper also won a \$1,000 award when he was a senior at Hampton High School. In all, HRBMP has awarded Coles \$2,250.

High school seniors **Alexis Whitted** of Grassfield High School in Chesapeake, and **Morgan Golden** of Hampton High School won scholarships for their "strong grades and essays," according to HRBMP committee members. Whitted was awarded \$1,000 while Golden received \$500; Whitted plans to major in communications at George Mason University while Golden plans to major in journalism and has been accepted to Howard, George Mason, James Madison, Christopher Newport, Hampton and Virginia Commonwealth universities.

"Our scholarship winners' grades, essays, news clips and letters of recommendation proved their passion for their career paths," said Cheryl Ross, immediate past president of HRBMP and the organization's current scholarship chairperson. "We are thrilled to have the opportunity to assist these rising stars as they pursue their media careers."

HRBMP members presented the students their checks while treating them to lunch on Saturday, May 16, at California Pizza Kitchen at MacArthur Center in Norfolk.

"Interacting with these bright and talented student communicators was a privilege. By seeing the personalities and perspectives of our awardees, it's evident that parents, area high schools, colleges and universities are nurturing these qualified and confident future leaders of our industry," said HRBMP President Karen Wilson. "Appreciation is also extended to our scholarship committee and to the sponsors who continue to assist in this great effort."

About HRBMP

Hampton Roads Black Media Professionals, Inc. is a nonprofit network of communicators serving as a liaison between the Hampton Roads community and the media, and it is organized exclusively for charitable and educational purposes. These purposes are to:

- Provide the community with professional insight into media coverage and operations.
- Serve as role models and mentors to students interested in media-related careers.
- Support the career development of media professionals.
- Create and fund scholarships to be awarded annually to eligible minority students pursuing media-related degrees.

Through community workshops, speaking engagements and special events, the organization serves as a resource for a variety of commercial and nonprofit organizations. Its members are TV reporters, print reporters, editors, news photographers, mass communications educators, graphic artists, public relations professionals, freelancers, marketing and advertising professionals, media managers and internet content developers. More information about HRBMP can be found at our www.hrbmp.org website.

Since 1989, HRBMP has awarded more than \$125,000 in scholarships and grants to African-American college students, local colleges, and other worthy causes.

In recent years, the chapter also won three grants, including one which was used to produce a journalism workshop for middle- and high-school kids.

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