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Immediate Release

## ACT-SO of NAACP Montgomery County MD Wins 3 National Medals

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People hosted its 40<sup>th</sup> Annual National Afro-Academic, Cultural, Technological, and Scientific Olympiad (ACT-SO) Competition in San Antonio, Texas. The theme for this year's ACT-SO was "Discover. Believe. Manifest." and three students from Montgomery County's ACT-SO reached the stage as National ACT-SO Medalists!

Our National Medalists are:

Gold, Gabrielle Cramer, Dance Ballet, Northwood High School, rising senior  
 Silver, Nina Crosby Walton, Architecture, Walkersville HS, rising freshman at Washington University, Missouri  
 Silver, Fredrica Deegbe, Poetry Written, Northwest High School, rising senior

The other Local Medalists representing Montgomery County were:

Daria Holoman, Engineering, Springbrook HS, rising sophomore  
 Jessica Holloway, Medicine & Health, Richard Montgomery HS, rising junior  
 Simone Hicks, Original Essay, Sherwood HS, rising freshman Montgomery College, Maryland  
 Ashley Torkornoo, Short Story, Clarksburg HS, rising freshman Mount St. Mary's, Maryland  
 Morgan Lowery, Instrumental Classical, Richard Montgomery HS, rising freshman Meredith College, North Carolina  
 Kwasi Kyeremeh, Instrumental Contemporary, Quince Orchard HS, rising freshman Montgomery College, Maryland  
 Sonayah Charles, Vocal Contemporary, Springbrook HS, rising freshman Berklee College of Music, Massachusetts  
 Aidan Douglas, Oratory, Seneca Valley HS, rising sophomore  
 Mwansa Mukuka, Drawing, Wootton HS, rising senior

This fiercely animated competition featured more than 700 students nationwide vying for scholarship dollars and prizes. The ACT-SO National Program was held from July 12 to July 15 and students competed in STEM, Humanities, Performing Arts, Visual Arts, and Business in more than 30 categories.

The host of the 40<sup>th</sup> ACT-SO Awards Ceremony was DeRon Horton, and ACT-SO alum, portraying Lionel Higgins of *Dear White People* on Netflix and Derell Ellerbee of *Roman J. Israel, Esq.* featuring Oscar winner Denzel Washington .

Hicks was part of an eight-singer ensemble featured in the ACT-SO Awards Ceremony. Charles was also a part of the ACT-SO Choir and Deegbe was a featured dramatist.

These amazing ACT-SO students represented the branch well as they competed with students across the country during the National ACT-SO Competition.

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