

**COMMUNITY**

# AACEAINC Presents its Inaugural Speech and Debate Series, Scholarship Awards

QUEENS, NY -- The African-American/Caribbean Education Association Inc. (AACEAINC) presented its Inaugural Speech and Debate Series Part I - Original Oratory Competition - and introduced this year's exceptional scholarship award recipients.

The phenomenal event was held on Saturday, August 3, 2019 at the St. Matthew's A.M.E. Community Church of Hollis where Rev. Dr. Andrea M. Hargett serves as senior pastor. AACEAINC showcased the afternoon's shining stars with stellar trophies, orators finishing in 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place; and awarded Certificates, to everyone, for scholarly oratory and academic excellence, given by Rosalind O'Neal, President and the Honorable John Liu, NYS Senate-NYC Education Committee Chair.

The orators and scholarship awardees were: ORATORS: Gabrielle Bernabe on "Transgender Athletes; Stephanie Foster-the 2nd Place Finish, Division Grades 5-8 on "Saving the Planet"; Kyla-Marie Griffith-3rd Place Finish, Division Grades 5-8 on "Animal Testing"; Koreen Melbourne-the Champion of the Division Grades 5-8 with the winning speech on "Robotics; Toni Murray on "Antibiotics and Medicine"; Alexander Serrao Jr. on "Reading and Video Games"; Najwa Waysome on "Genetically Engineered Food"; and Alfred Olatunde-the Champion of

the Division Grades 9-12 with the winning speech "Animal Testing"; AWARDEES: Cameron Allen, recipient of the Community Service Scholarship, University of Buffalo bound; Leashell Camille, recipient of the William A. Samber Sr. Aviation/Math and Science Scholarship, Princeton bound; and Trisha Johnson, recipient of the Mildred Collins Nursing/Health Science/Medicine Scholarship, Wagner College 5 Year Physician Assistant Program bound.

Essential to the strategic planning for this pristine program were the miraculous and prodigious supporters that steadfastly assist the AACEAINC organization; and the distinguished leadership and advocacy of its promoters who handily embraced the vision of its president to provide the community with a viable literacy project that will unquestionably embolden our communities. Hence, the president proudly salutes the tireless and relentless work of these loyal advocates and their bountiful contributions: Promoters: Joyce Samber, whose father was William A. Samber Sr. an "Original



**Orators and Scholarship Awardees: Left to Right: Toni Murray, Koreen Melbourne, Kyla-Marie Griffith, Stephanie Foster, Gabrielle Bernabe, Alexander Serrao Jr, Najwa Waysome, Cameron Allen, Leashell Camille, Trisha Johnson, and Alfred Olatunde; Front Center: Senator John Liu and President Rosalind O'Neal**



**Original Oratory Winners: Left to Right: Division Grades 5-8: Kyla-Marie Griffith, 3rd Pl., Stephanie Foster, 2nd Pl, Koreen Melbourne, Champion, and Division Grades 9-12: Alfred Olatunde, Champion**

Tuskegee Airman" and the honored name-holder of the Aviation/Math and Science Scholarship, Jeany Persaud, 1st VP of the New American Voters Association; Ayanna Mays, CEO of the Track Star Tutoring and Core Learning Center Inc. en-

ities; Special Guest of Honor: The Hon. John Liu, NYS Senate-NYC Education Committee Chair; Host: St. Matthew's A.M.E. Church of Hollis, Rev. Dr. Andrea M. Hargett, Pastor; Media: Imran Ahmad of West Indian TV Today

(with ITV Gold) providing videotaping for the AACEAINC website; Photography: Jeany Persaud; Distinguished Support: Superintendent, Rev. Gwendolyn Walker Greater Allen Cathedral NY Sunday School; Refreshments: Shirley

Phipps; and facilitation of the Scholarship and Planning Committees, respectively: Commander Leroy Barnes, Shawneequa Callier, Harriett Diaz, Chair, Ayanna Mays, Rosalind O'Neal, President, Shirley Phipps, Joyce Samber, Hon. Ernestine Washington, Ret. Sargeant Major Jackie Wilson; Planning, Una Johnson, Jeany Persaud and Aura Quinones-Moody, Co-Chairs; and finally, the invaluable assessments by our very fine Oratorical Judges, Rev. Stephanie Betts-Coleman, Juliette Bowers, Harriette Diaz, Taj Johnson, Carla Magnus, and Ayanna Mays, each of whom have backgrounds in English Language Arts, Speech Pathology, Education Administration, and Capacity Building.

The AACEAINC organization is planning the Speech and Debate Series Part II-"Debate" for Black History Month, February 2020. AACEAINC invites all young people to become engaged and to enter competition.

To keep abreast of what the organization is doing and to obtain details for "Debate", Part II of the series, please visit [www.aaceainc.com](http://www.aaceainc.com).

At our website you can receive a host of information, learn more about the organization, get details regarding the Scholarship Program and Debate Series, and very soon, see the program that was presented on August 3rd.

**CARIBBEAN**