

For Immediate Release
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Contact: Sandra Parker,

Broad Ripple Grad Wins Silver Medal at National Competition Six Indianapolis Students Compete in NAACP Arts Competition

INDIANAPOLIS — Broad Ripple High School graduate Edward Strickling Jr. earned a silver medal at the Afro-Academic, Cultural, Technological and Scientific Olympics, a national academic and talent competition sponsored by the NAACP.

Performing in the vocal contemporary music category, Strickling won \$1,500 and an iPod or iPad 6 at the competition in San Antonio, Texas. Strickling was one of six Indianapolis students who competed from July 12-16.

The students qualified earlier this year by earning excellent scores in their chosen competition categories in Indianapolis. They were sponsored by the Greater Indianapolis NAACP Branch 3053, led by ACT-SO committee chair Mrs. Sandra Parker.

“All of Indianapolis should be proud of these talented young people for qualifying for the national competition,” Mrs. Parker said. “The work they’ve put into their craft was apparent at the local competition in April. We are very proud of Edward for winning the silver medal. In our book, they are all winners.”

The other Indianapolis ACT-SO competitors, their high schools, and competition categories were:

- Moudatou Barry, Pike HS, Painting;
- Nadia Issa, Ben Davis HS, Drawing, Entrepreneurship and Oratory;
- Brittney Morton, Pike HS, Photography;
- Janet Oluwayomi, Ben Davis HS, Dramatics; and
- Gabriel Ratcliffe, Cathedral HS, Poetry Performance.

"Congratulations to all these students. They represented Indianapolis exceptionally well at the national competition," said Mrs. Chrystal Ratcliffe, president of Greater Indianapolis NAACP Branch 3053. "Our city is truly blessed to have these young people as part of our community."

ACT-SO is an annual achievement program designed to recruit, stimulate, and encourage high academic and cultural achievement among African-American high school students.

ACT-SO includes 32 competitions in STEM, humanities, business, and performing, visual and culinary arts. Almost 300,000 young people 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.