

## **Brockton Area Branch NAACP - Annual Report 2020**

### **ACT-SO (Afro Academic, Cultural, Technological and Scientific Olympics)**

Based on the number of students who attended our first Info Session in January 2020, we had more students eager to participate in the 2020 ACT-SO program and competition than in any of the previous five years. We thought our biggest challenge would be to identify additional mentors. However, when COVID-19 forced us to postpone our April 25<sup>th</sup> local live competition, it took the National ACT-SO office and us several weeks to figure the best way to hold a virtual competition. The National Office was instrumental in giving us guidance and a structure to hold our local competition on May 30<sup>th</sup>.

We continued to hold our Enrichment Sessions on line, but by the time we were ready to hold our local competition most of the students dropped out of the program. Nonetheless, we held a Virtual Pep Rally for the 8 students from 4 schools who were competing in 10 categories; special guests at the Pep Rally included National NAACP Board Member Michael Curry, Mayor Bob Sullivan, School Superintendent Mike Thomas & State Rep Claire Cronin. At the competition, 4 students were awarded a total of 5 Gold Medals and 1 Silver Medal. The three Gold Medal winning students, all from Brockton High School, advanced to Nationals.

The National competition, also held virtually, was moved to mid-August and two of our students won 3<sup>rd</sup> Place Bronze Medals in the categories of Health/Medicine (Stephanie Amanze) and Traditional Dance (Chrisla Brignol); each received \$1,000 and an iPad. Both of these two students recently participated as guests on our NAACP Forum Cable TV program.

We have already held two Information Sessions for our 2021 program, with more than 20 students participating, and have a full schedule of 8 virtual Enrichment and other activities lined up for winter & spring. In addition to our Committee of four, we recently added three more members. We are actively recruiting for more students and for mentors in more than a dozen different categories the students have already expressed an interest in competing. Our local competition will be held virtually over to days: April 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>, with the award ceremony taking place on Tuesday, April 27<sup>th</sup>.

Submitted by: Patricia Monteith, Co-Chair ACT-SO