The 33rd National ACT-SO Competition showcased our country's best and brightest.

(CLEVELAND) – Four Cleveland students brought home medals from the NAACP's 33rd annual **Academic, Cultural, Technological and Scientific Olympics (ACT-SO)** in Los Angeles, California. The five-day event capped months of local competition in which high school students around the country jockeyed for a spot to compete in nationals.

The 26 categories ranged from the performing arts and music to mathematics, biology and business.

-- Mark Burns, a recent graduate of Collinwood High School, won the Silver medal in Drawing.

-- Akeem Pennicooke, also a recent graduate of Collinwood High School, won the Bronze medal in Computer Science.

-- John Boykin III, a rising senior at St. Peter Chanel High School, won the Silver medal in Earth and Space Sciences.

-- Wayne Smith III, a recent graduate of Orange High School, won the Silver medal in Filmmaking.

More than 1200 gold medalists, chairpersons, youth observers and supporters convened in Los Angeles July 20-24 for the national competition. The July 24 award ceremony was hosted by actress Rocsi and featured performances by Venus Williams, Julia Pace and Bobby Soto, among others.

Previous ACT-SO contestants and winners include filmmaker John Singleton, musician Kanye West and actress Jada Pinkett Smith.

“The 33rd National ACT-SO Competition showcased our country’s best and brightest. Thousands of adults, community and corporate volunteers lent their efforts to this annual mammoth undertaking,” stated Anana Kambon, ACT-SO National Executive Director.

“These young competitors are the architects and innovators who will influence our changing world. The NAACP is honored to provide a platform for their exhibition of excellence.”

“ACT-SO has a record of producing leaders in the arts, sciences and business world,” stated NAACP President & CEO Benjamin Todd Jealous. “The program is an excellent opportunity for young African Americans from all walks of life to come together, exchange ideas and flourish.”

The ACT-SO program centers on the dedication and commitment of community volunteers and business leaders who serve as mentors and coaches to promote academic and artistic excellence among African-American students. It was founded by renowned author and journalist Vernon Jarrett in 1978.

Founded in 1909, the NAACP is the nation's oldest and largest civil rights organization. Its members throughout the United States and the world are the premier advocates for civil rights in their communities, conducting voter mobilization and monitoring equal opportunity in the public and private sectors.