President Celebrates 150th Anniversary of the 13th Amendment
By Janelle Berry
NNPA News Wire

The Actual Amendment that Abolished Slavery

WASHINGTON — Ask Americans what the Emancipation Proclamation is and most who know of President Abraham Lincoln’s executive order will respond like 20-year-old Ebony Harris, a student of Howard University from Chicago, Ill., and say, “Isn’t that the thing that freed the slaves?”

But, the Emancipation Proclamation did not actually free the slaves. It freed three of the four million slaves in states that were in revolt against the Union during the Civil War, and it was not permanent.

Ask them about the 13th Amendment to the Constitution, and most responses sound like Josephine Jacob-Cox, a schedule manager for the New York City Transit Authority.

“Does it have something to do with voting,” Jacob-Cox asked.

Actually, this was the law that freed the slaves. Had it not been for that amendment 150 years ago, there may not be a U.S. Attorney General Loretta Lynch, media mogul Oprah Winfrey, billionaire Robert Johnson, Xerox President Ursula Burns, music impresario Sean “Diddy” Combs, “Empire,” R&B music, hip hop or rap, the Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr.,

Above, is an engraving from Frank Leslie’s magazine of the celebration when the Thirteenth Amendment was passed.

On the Cover: President Barack Obama delivers remarks at an event commemorating the 150th anniversary of the 13th Amendment abolishing slavery, at the U.S. Capital in Washington, D.C., Dec. 9, 2015. (Lawrence Jackson/White House)
Washington Mayor Muriel Bowser or President Barack Obama. Obama and Congress paused last week (Wednesday) to celebrate the moment 119 all White men in the U.S. House of Representatives would forever abolish slavery and involuntary servitude, except as punishment for a crime.

“Today, the issue of chattel slavery seems so simple, so obvious — it is wrong in every sense, stealing men, women, and children from their homelands, tearing husband from wife, parent from child; stripped and sold to the highest bidder; shackled in chains and bleeding with the whip,” Obama said in Emancipation Hall at the U.S. Capitol.

“It’s antithetical not only to our conception of human rights and dignity, but to our conception of ourselves — a people founded on the premise that all are created equal.”

Fredette West, director of the African American Health Alliance and the chair of the Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities Coalition, expressed her happiness to be a guest at the commemoration.

“This commemoration was deep and penetrating to the soul,” West said. “I wish everyone had the opportunity to be here, but it’s great that the media was here so the youth can hear it and take in the message that was given today.”

House Speaker Paul Ryan (R-WI) also voiced his gratitude.

“The 13th amendment is just 43 words long,” Ryan said. “It is so short that you can almost miss its whole significance. Today we celebrate this 43-word amendment; this new birth of freedom. It is altogether fitting and proper that we do this.”

Although the amendment’s purpose was to abolish slavery, it was also a strategy to end the bloody and tragic fatalities during the Civil War of 1861 to 1865. For four years, Black and White Union soldiers were fighting in the war together against the rebellious Confederacy, causing over half a million deaths. Fear of more tragic fatalities caused Lincoln to threaten to free all of the slaves in the U.S. with the Emancipation Proclamation in 1863.

Even after the Senate passed the amendment April 1864, Lincoln aggressively pursued the favor of representatives in the House who opposed the amendment by bribing them, offering his support in their political careers and even convincing them that the amendment’s purpose had nothing to do with racial equality.

The fear of granting African Americans the same constitutional rights caused fear, therefore, creating the constant battle to grant passage of the amendment. However, on Jan. 31, 1865, the House finally passed the bill, with 119 yes votes and 56 against.

Once the bill was passed in January, on Dec. 6, 1865, the bill was ratified, declaring the end of slavery.

Eventually, several states began to ratify the amendment to their state constitutions, the first being Illinois on Feb. 1, 1866. Rep. Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) presented first lady Michelle Obama’s remarks on her reverence of the progress of African Americans and the United States since the abolishment of slavery.

She said that ‘Today’ — and I carry this in my heart — I hope that Sojourner Truth would be proud to see me, a descendant of slaves serving as the first lady of the United States of America,” Pelosi said.

Obama also gave reverence to the African American leaders of the past who struggled and fought for the freedom that all citizens of America have today, such as Harriet Tubman, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and Frederick Douglass. He also commended Lincoln for being the president that sparked the change that America needed to see.

It’s antithetical not only to our conception of human rights and dignity, but to our conception of ourselves — a people founded on the premise that all are created equal.

- President Barack Obama
Terrill Lewis, Jr. is a Superhero!

Meet a Real Life Superhero!

Ten-year-old Terrill Lewis, Jr. loves to read superhero comic books. One day he told his grandmother that he wanted to be a superhero himself.

Terrill knew that he did not have the ability to fly to be a super-hero, but he figured out that he could do good things to affect the lives of people in other ways.

Terrill learned that there is an urgent need for hygiene supplies for the children of Haiti. Therefore he started a project called “A kit for a Kid,” which raises funds for personal hygiene items for Haitian children. Each kit contains:

- 2 wash cloths, 2 hand towels, 1 girls Deodorant 1.4oz, 1 boys Deodorant 1.8oz, 1 soap holder, 2 bars of Gold Antibacterial Dial soap, 1 toothbrush (soft), 1 toothbrush holder, and 1 kids toothpaste. All of the items are placed in a festive red drawstring bags and shipped to Haiti. The total cost of each “Kit for a Kid” is $15.

Terrill’s mission:

My mission is to provide personal hygiene kits to the children of Haiti. As we all know Haiti have had several terrible earthquakes causing hardships for many families. With your help, we can make the lives of the children a little better. The children of Haiti and I thank you very, very much for your support.

Little Terrill Lewis, Jr. met his first big goal of putting together and distributing 100 kits for Haitian kids. He is asking for your support to continue this worthy project. You too can be a superhero! You can make cash donations to the “Kit for a Kid” project by contacting:

Shirley Edwards
(504) 307-0351
Shirley5050@cox.net

Also you can donate the listed items for the kits, as they are all available at Walmart.

The shipping and distribution of the kits is directed by Mary Jo Poux of Hope for Haitian Children, sponsor of FEPE Orphanage, Ecole Foyer Espoir, and Families in Need.

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Dr. Takeisha Davis Named CEO of New Orleans East Hospital

Data News Staff Edited Report

On Tuesday, Mayor Mitch Landrieu, Orleans Parish Hos-

tial Service District A (HSD) and
LCMC Health announced that
Takeisha Davis, MD, MPH, will
serve as the new Chief Executive
Officer (CEO) of the New Orleans
East Hospital (NOEH) beginning
on Jan. 11, 2016. Dr. Davis has spent
the last ten years at the Louisiana
Department of Health and Hospi-
tals (DHH) where she currently
serves as the Director of the Cen-
ter for Community and Preventive
Health, Medical Director and As-

ist State Health Officer for the
Office of Public Health (OPH).
Dr. Davis is a New Orleans native
who earned a Doctorate of Medi-
cine from Johns Hopkins Uni-
versity School of Medicine and
a Master’s in Public Health from
Harvard University, has extensive
experience in clinical care, com-

munity engagement and healthcare
systems management.

“Last year, we opened the New
Orleans East Hospital to ensure
that residents had access to quality
and affordable healthcare services,”
said Mayor Mitch Landrieu. “This
year, we have been searching for
a leader who can manage and nu-
ture the culture of NOEH so that
it becomes a catalyst for growth in
New Orleans East. With excep-
tional knowledge of the healthcare
industry and roots in New Orleans,
Dr. Davis is uniquely positioned
to serve in this role.”

As CEO of NOEH, Davis will
be directly employed by LCMC
Health, the management partner
for NOEH, and will report to the
13-member HSD Board, which is
comprised of business and civic
leaders, healthcare providers and
operators, as well as New Orleans
East residents.

Ronald V. Burns, Sr., Chairman
of the HSD Board said, “We are
pleased to welcome Dr. Davis to
NOEH. She shares the board’s
vision to ensure accessible, full-
service healthcare for residents
of the East, Gentilly and Lower 9.
We will work together to continue
to make good on our promise to
serve this community.”

Charlotte Parent, Director of the
New Orleans Health Department
and Vice-Chairman of the HSD
Board said, “Now in its second
year, NOEH needs an exceptional
leader who can articulate a com-

elling vision for its future and
take it to the next level. With cer-
tainty, we have found that person
in Dr. Davis. With her leadership,
NOEH will continue to contribute
to the Health Department’s over-
all goal of improving the quality of
life for all New Orleans residents.”

Dr. Davis was born and raised
in New Orleans. The daughter of
two public servants, she gradu-
ated from Eleanor McMain Sec-
ondary School and entered Xavier
University of Louisiana with a de-
sire to serve the public through
the field of medicine.

Dr. Davis’ responsibilities with
DHII include overseeing nine re-

gional offices, 68 parish health
units, the OPH Laboratory, the
OPH Pharmacy, Infectious Disease
Epidemiology, and medical supervi-
sion of all of OPH’s programs state-
wide. She is also a Clinical Assistant
Professor at Tulane Medical School
and an Adjunct Assistant Profes-
sor at the Tulane School of Public
Health and Tropical Medicine.

The $130 million, 80-bed hos-
pital opened in July of 2014, pro-
viding healthcare services to
residents of New Orleans East,
Gentilly and the Lower Ninth
Ward. Last July, former CEO Dr.
Mario Garner, accepted a new po-
sition at Memorial Hermann Pear-
land Hospital in Pearland, TX.
Since that time, Charlotte Parent
has served as the interim CEO.

The full-service hospital now of-
ers emergency services, surgical
services, cardiology, gastroenterol-
yogy, radiology, and rehab services
including cardiac, physical therapy,
and occupational therapy. There
are currently over 150 physicians on
staff and affiliated with NOEH,
and 200 additional staff, including
nurses, therapists, case managers,
technicians, and environmental and
dietary service providers.

New Orleans East Hospital is
open daily from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. with
24-hour emergency care. Located
at 5620 Read Boulevard, the hos-
pital has already seen over 25,000
emergency room visits in 2015. In
the case of an emergency, please
call 911.

From more information about
the hospital, visit www.noehospital.
org or call (504) 592-6600.

AmeriHealth Caritas Louisiana
Accredited by NCQA

AmeriHealth Caritas Louisiana, a
Medicaid managed care health
plan serving Louisiana and part of
the AmeriHealth Caritas Fam-
ily of Companies, announced that
it has become accredited by the
National Committee for Quality
Assurance (NCQA). AmeriHealth
Caritas Louisiana began caring for
Louisianans participating in Bay-
wou Health, the state’s Medicaid
managed care program, in Feb-


dary 2012. AmeriHealth Caritas
Louisiana’s NCQA accreditation
is valid through June 5, 2018.

AmeriHealth Caritas Louisiana
boasts a network of more than
10,000 providers (primary care
providers, specialists and hospi-
tals) and a community outreach
team with a presence in ev-
ery part of the state, as well as
community investment projects
and partnerships with local and

tional organizations. Ameri-
Health Caritas Louisiana’s net-
work providers, associates and
community partners work every
day to build healthy communities
in each of the state’s 64 parishes.

“From our first day serving Loui-
sianans, we have been committed
to meeting high standards of ex-

ellence, said Kyle Viator, market
president of AmeriHealth Caritas
Louisiana. “NCQA’s accreditation
standards are as rigorous as they
come, and achieving NCQA ac-

idation is a sign of our success
in helping those most in need get
the right care in the right place at
the right time.”
Adonis’ Birthday Bash & Toy Drive

Adonis C. Expose’s Annual Birthday Celebration and Christmas Toy Drive took place on Saturday December 12th at the “Roy E. Glapion, Jr. Hall” (New Zulu Hall). It seemed like the whole city turned out to wish Adonis a happy birthday, and to drop off a toy for a child who will love it. Thank you to all who donated, and Happy Birthday Adonis. Music was provided by DJ Raj Smoove.

Visit www.ladatanews.com for more photos from these events
By Kichea S. Burt
Data News Weekly Contributor

On Tuesday, December 8, 2015 Saints Football Team’s tight end Benjamin Watson, his wife Kirston Watson, and their foundation, One More, spearheaded a benefit for the mothers of 25 families from the New Orleans Family Justice Center. The BENefit was hosted by the Walmart Store in Harahan, Louisiana. Food was provided by Papa John’s Pizza. The mothers, who were accompanied by either Ben, one of his team mates from the Saints, or members from the Watsons’ church were allowed to shop for their children’s holiday gifts and/or things that were needed in their households. Each family was allotted $325 to shop with.

Ben and Kirsten founded One More as a way to pay it forward in the communities where Ben has been a football team member because they both stand strongly in their faith and the belief that “Our call is to be a light in the community wherever we are. It is exciting times to discover where God leads us.” “Since its inception our desire has been for One More to be a vehicle to carry the hope and love of Christ to those in our community who need it most, while understanding that the best and most efficient way to reach people’s hearts is by first meeting their physical needs. Our mission is to simply be a blessing to those around us wherever we are, whether that’s supporting existing charities or initiating programs of our own.”

One More was established in January 2008 and is a 501(c)3 public charity. The Foundation serves as an extension of Kirsten and Benjamin as they reach out to the community with faith in God as their foundation. It also allows them to support and partner with those who share their desire to make a positive difference in the world.

The New Orleans Family Justice Center (NOFJC) is a partnership of agencies dedicated to ending family violence, child abuse, sexual assault, and stalking through prevention and coordinated response by providing comprehensive, client-centered empowerment services in a single location. They are located at 701 Loyola Ave # 600, NO LA 70113. Contact number is 504-592-4005. The 24 hour crisis line is 504-866-9554.

The Watsons were accompanied by Saints players Luke McCown, Josh Hill, Michael Hoomanawanui, Justin Drescher, Willie Snead, Cameron Jordan, Senio Kelemete, Scantavious Jones, Thomas Morstead, Obum Gwacham, Chris Manhertz, Austin Johnson, some of their wives, and Justin Macione of team communications, Tamika Lee of WWLTV and her husband, as well as one of the Watson’s daughters, members of the Watson’s church Lake View Christian Center, and staff of the Orleans Family Justice Center.

Visit www.ladatanews.com for more photos from these events
COP 21, the United Nations Conference on Climate Change brought many world leaders to Paris including U.S. President Barack Obama. They spoke about global warming and many other issues related to repairing and caring for the physical environment. But what has been on everybody’s mind is the recent attacks in Paris and the wave of violence, intolerance and misunderstanding that’s happening globally. Something that seems to dominate news broadcasts, social media and our everyday conversations. While it is good we are discussing these important issues, the broader question is how do we change the human relations environment in the world we live in today?

As someone who has written extensively on the human condition and the inequality of New Orleans, the U.S. and now internationally. I must say it has been quite interesting to live in another society meeting people from every corner of the globe and discussing the state of the world: and coming to the common conclusion that there is a universal quest for the human race to live in peace and prosperity, something that is an aspiration for all. But the key question for us as global citizens is how do we get there? I had the unique opportunity to be interviewed by Benoit Ballet, a Paris based journalist who works with RMC radio in France. We met on oddly enough a street called Passage Landrieu. Can’t seem to escape reminders of New Orleans, in addition to the fact I am also living on the same street I lived on in New Orleans (Cambronne) here in Paris.

When we spoke and I told him that one of the biggest problems that we face in the world today is fear, ignorance and how to communicate effectively with each other. These are the things that inhibits greater understanding that will lead to solutions to our problems. That we spend too much time forging ahead with our own understanding of things and refuse to look or listen to the other side of issues we feel passionately about. And understanding that while passion could be a good thing that in its most

Reflections From Paris 2
What’s Going On

Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia Defends Racism from the Bench

By Edwin Buggage
Editor, Data News Weekly

On the same day that President Barack Obama gave a stirring and historically grounded commemoration regarding the 150th anniversary of the passage of the 13th Amendment, the one that “abolished” slavery, Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia chose to disregard tenets of equality and opportunity from the bench during the hearing for Fisher v. University of Texas where he suggested that African American students would benefit more if they went to “lesser track” schools. His verbatim comments:

“One are those who contend that it does not benefit African Americans to get them into the University of Texas, where they do not do well — as opposed to having them go to a less advanced school, a slower-track school where they do well,” Scalia said. “One of the briefs pointed out that

most of the Black scientists in this country don’t come from schools like the University of Texas. They come from lesser schools where they do not feel that they’re being pushed ahead in classes that are too fast for them.”

What does Justice Scalia mean by “lesser schools?” Does he suggest that the African Americans, most at the top 10 percent of their high school class (as required by Texas law) can’t compete with their peers, similarly situated students at the top of their classes? Abigail Fisher, who is bringing this lawsuit, was deficient, and judged as she. She was not in the top 10 percent her Texas high school; according to the Ten Percent Plan any graduating senior in the top 10 percent of their graduating class receives admission to the University of Texas at Austin. More than three quarters of the slots at the University of Texas/Austin are reserved for that group of students — the best and the brightest of their high schools. What about Fisher? She didn’t make the cut. A middling student, she had not enough redeeming social value to be considered among the 8 percent whose admission is a function of the Personal Achievement Index (PAI) and Academic Index (AI). These are the folks who based on their race, socioeconomic status, family background, extra curricular activities and other factors stand out. These folks are not all African American; in fact of the 841 that make up the 8 percent, only 47 of them scored lower than Fisher and only five of them were African American. They are folks whose portfolio deserved special consideration.

Abigail Fisher is an ordinary White girl who was so seeped in White skin privilege that she fully expected to have her way. She is a whiner who has been enabled by the anti-affirmative action crowd, people who push a point because she cannot own her own deficiencies. She is attacking affirmative action because that is her excuse for being deficient and mediocre.

“Lots of students don’t get into their first choice school. Most re- cover – they go to their second or third choice, graduate, and manage their lives happily. From time to time, they may ruminate that they would have liked to have their first choice. They may show up at football games, cheering for the school they weren’t admitted to, or they may relish the success that comes to them, despite their early disappointment. But they are grown people, used to a setback (who isn’t), and prepared to move on with their lives. They know they weren’t in the top 10 percent, and they are happy if they made the second cut at UT, or content to go to another school and excel. Not Fisher. Battressed by the dollars that come from affirmative action opponents, she is willing to be the poster girl for inadequacy.

From his remarks from the Supreme Court bench, Judge Antonin Scalia is willing to consider her point and exhibit his own racism. What does he mean by “lesser schools?” Is he familiar with the data on African American accomplishment? Does he share the same hubris that Abigail Fisher does, ascerting that a deficient white student deserves an edge over a well-prepared black one? Scalia needs to look at the data before running his mouth. Both African American and white students go to schools that are less highly rated than the University of Texas (lesser schools, really). Most of them succeed. They would have succeeded at UT, too. Regardless of race, they accept the fact that, not in the top 10 percent of their class, they were not entitled to admission. After that, their admission was a roll of the dice.

While President Obama talked about freedom, invoking the history that made the 13th Amendment important, reminding us of “the preachers, black and white,” (who) railed against this moral outrage from the pulpit. Where are these preachers now? They know that there are racial economic gaps, but they are silent. They know that there is a structural racism that perpetuates unfairness, but they are unwilling to fight against it. They will offer preaching, perhaps tepid, perhaps rousing. But they won’t step up and attack the systems that produce disparate economic results. They won’t condemn attacks on affirmative action.

How would Justice Scalia’s respond to President Obama’s eloquence with his White privileged arrogance? If there is a poster girl for fairness, she isn’t Abigail Fisher. To lift her up is to embrace the arrogance of White skin privilege. To lift her up is a disgraceful rebuff to the University of Texas students who achieve against all odds. To denigrate the students who were admitted instead of Fisher is a laughable attempt by a so-called justice to justify his injustice, and it flies in the face that our President made when he spoke of the 13th amendment.

It’s All About Your Ugly!

The subject is not new but the circumstances demand some of us need reassurance. Do you have an addiction, a weakness, something you are aware of but just cannot shake on your own? It may be a secret, your secret, something you dare not reveal for it goes the complete opposite of who you believe yourself to be and counter to the person whom you are truly trying to become. 2 Corinthians 12:7-9 says, “To keep me from becoming conceited, there was given me a thorn in my flesh, a messenger from Satan to torment me. Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. But He said to me ‘My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.’ Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ’s power may rest on me.”

Paul’s weak point was the three times he pleaded with the Lord to remove the thorn. He kept insisting it was a thorn and needed to be removed. This is his response.

2 Corinthians 12:7-9 says, “To keep me from becoming conceited, there was given me a thorn in my flesh, a messenger from Satan to torment me. Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. But He said to me ‘My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.’ Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ’s power may rest on me.”

Three times he pleaded with the Lord to take away the thorn. When the Lord refused to remove it, Paul knew he had to accept that it was a gift from God. He needed to accept the thorn and let it become a reminder of his weakness.

The thorn was a reminder of his human frailty and his dependence on God. When Paul accepted the thorn, he discovered that it was not the end of his life, but rather the beginning of a new chapter. God’s grace was sufficient for him, and He could handle the weakness.

Paul’s response to his weakness was to boast about it, not hide it. He saw it as an opportunity to show the power of God. He knew that by embracing his weakness, he could see the power of God in his life.

Paul’s example of embracing his weakness can be applied to our lives. We all have weaknesses, and it is through embracing them that we can see the power of God in our lives. When we accept our weaknesses, we can see the power of God in our lives. When we embrace our weaknesses, we can see the power of God in our lives.

In this passage, Paul is reminding us that God’s grace is sufficient for us even in our weakness. He is encouraging us to accept our weaknesses and let God’s power work in our lives. By embracing our weaknesses, we can see the power of God in our lives.

By itself, you might wonder how Paul comes up with this conclusion. But when taken in the context of the entire passage, isn’t it true that out of many impossible situations and circumstances, God rescued you? How many testimonies do you need to hear before you give God the Lord to overcome your addictions, your passions, your vanity, your shortcomings, you get so much more than you bargained for. According to this part of the bible, you also get Christ’s power to work with.

That is why, for Christ’s sake I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.”

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MY BEST IDEA CAME FROM MY BLOCK IN QUEENS.

Where We Come From
I’m proud of my contribution to music, but I didn’t create hip-hop. My proudest achievement is much more personal, because it’s something I did create and I believe it will help make the world a better place for my kids. It’s what we do at RushCard. I started RushCard for people who weren’t able to participate in the banking system. When someone can’t get serviced by a bank, they get shut out of the economy, they spend hours in line getting their checks cashed and paying bills. It means they can’t do business online. As the world speeds up, they are forced to slow down, and I wanted to do something about it.

How It Works
RushCard helps folks overcome challenges by providing them with a prepaid Visa debit card and giving them their direct deposit check 2 days early. It allows me to transfer money to my kids while their away at school and help save for the future. It means anyone can shop online. Access to financial services is absolutely needed to advance our community. And RushCard works. You can see how it’s been adopted by all sorts of middle class Americans, because all of us can appreciate the value you get from using it.

What’s Next?
At RushCard we’ve always been an industry leader in product innovations that make your life easier. Now, in addition to our award-winning fee free structure we’re giving all of our customers a free holiday through February 29, 2016 so anyone can enjoy the full benefits of RushCard. For this upcoming tax season, if you direct deposit a $3,000 tax refund, we’ll add $30 to your account. We never stop innovating for all of our customers old and new. That’s why I started this company in the first place.

-Signed today by visiting RushCard.com
Clark Atlanta University Students Awarded $75,000 As Winners of Third Annual Ford HBCU Community Challenge

The telepathic conservation system created by Clark Atlanta students Bradley Gilbeaux and Damon Willis can be customized for both business and residential use – saving millions of gallons in water. The students and school will take home $75,000 in scholarships, grants and implementation funds as winners of this year’s challenge.

Second place and $15,000 goes to North Carolina A&T State University for a plan to develop creative workspaces for innovation and entrepreneurship for teens in the Greensboro area. Alabama A&M University captures third place and $10,000 to implement a project that combines a community garden and vehicle distribution system to reach needy residents.

Now in its third year, Historically Black Colleges & Universities Community Challenge is jointly supported by Ford Marketing and the Ford Motor Company Fund, with participation from national radio personality and longtime supporter Tom Joyner, and the Rickey Smiley Morning Show. Joyner was assisted in final judging by PBS Finding Your Roots host Dr. Henry Louis Gates Jr.

"Ford’s Historically Black Colleges & Universities Community Challenge is a model of corporate support for our historically black schools – one other companies should emulate," said Gates. "Ford has long been a leader in its support of this kind of programming, and this challenge affords an opportunity for our finest students to demonstrate their mastery in the fields of science, technology, engineering and math, as well as their entrepreneurial skills with concern for communities.

"Rarely have I been prouder of any students, anywhere," Gates added. The challenge is a reflection of Ford’s longtime commitment to supporting the African American community, and its focus on educational initiatives, and its focus on educational and scholarships to help them realize their educational goals," said Pamela Alexander, director, community development, Ford Fund. "All of the participants this year made us proud with their ideas, energy and spirit of giving back."

Next year, Ford Fund will serve as presenting sponsor of Tom Joyner Foundation Fantastic Voyage, which has raised funds for Historically Black Colleges & Universities since 1999. To view the journey these students took follow #FordHBCU.

Buggage, Continued from page 8.

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Today communicating and listening is more important than ever in a world that is global and interconnected. That today we have more access to information that at any time in the history of mankind. Today we can build bridges of understanding much easier because we have access to each other and use these innovations as a tool to unite us and not divide us and build a civil society. In the 21st Century we can learn and grow in ways to recognize our common humanity like never before. This should be the goal for the 21st Century, an environment where we can eliminate the waste that is intolerance, hate and communication that is leading us to a toxic state of affairs.
Recently, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) announced the rate of new cases of diabetes in the United States declined by about 20 percent from 2008 to 2014. This represents the first sustained decrease in prevalence since the disease emerged as a major threat to public health over the course of the past two decades. But the fight is far from over, especially for communities of color.

While the CDC report is good news regarding an overall decline in diabetes rates, it did not acknowledge a significant change in prevalence among the African-American community, which continues to be far more vulnerable to the disease than other racial and ethnic groups.

Consider the data: Black adults are about twice as likely to have diagnosed diabetes as non-Hispanic White adults. They are also twice as likely to die from the disease.

What’s more, African-Americans are about twice as likely to have diagnosed diabetes as non-Hispanic White adults. They are also twice as likely to be touched by diabetes. African-Americans are about twice as likely to have diagnosed diabetes as non-Hispanic White adults. They are also twice as likely to die from the disease.

Researchers believe that prevention and early detection could save lives, but they also believe that more education and community involvement are needed to combat this epidemic.

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