Diverse: Issues In Higher Education announces the 2018 Arthur Ashe Jr. Male and Female Athletes-of-the-Year

FAIRFAX, Va. — Diverse: Issues In Higher Education magazine is pleased to announce the 2018 Arthur Ashe Jr. Male and Female Athletes of the Year.

Male:

Blaise Taylor, Arkansas State University, Football, Winner

Justin Zhang, University of California, San Diego, Tennis, 1st Runner-Up
Jevon Carter, West Virginia University, Basketball, 2nd Runner-Up

Female:

Haley Clark, University of Georgia, Basketball, Winner

Kennedi Harris, University of Missouri, Gymnastics, 1st Runner-Up
Samantha Kokoska, University of Washington, Soccer, 2nd Runner-Up

Of the more than 1,000 scholar-athletes nominated, Diverse: Issues In Higher Education has named Taylor and Clark its 2018 Arthur Ashe Jr. Male and Female Sports Scholars-of-the-Year, for best exemplifying the highest standards of scholarship, athleticism and humanitarianism.

In addition to their athletic ability, students named Arthur Ashe Jr. Sports Scholars must maintain a cumulative grade average of at least 3.2, be at least a sophomore academically, and be active on their campuses or in their communities.
Ranked sixth in the SEC with 3.9 assists per game, senior starting point guard Clark maintains a 3.9 GPA in financial planning. She serves myriad organizations in her local community and has travelled internationally to distribute shoes to young children.

A standout on the football field, Taylor, also a senior, carries a 4.0 GPA in business administration. Highly invested in working with at-risk youth, he and his sister created a non-profit organization called “The Power of 1 or 2” to work with underprivileged children.

Both athletes balance community service and the rigors of top-tier NCAA intercollegiate play with academic achievement at the highest level. They will be profiled in the April 5, 2018 edition of Diverse.

Winners in each individual sport category are also selected for the annual Ashe edition. This year’s Sports Winners are:

- Chase Almendarez, Baseball, University of Houston—Victoria
- Jevon Carter, Basketball (M), West Virginia University
- Haley Clark, Basketball (W), University of Georgia
- Julia Bond, Bowling, University of Nebraska–Lincoln
- Britni Love, Cheerleading, Oklahoma State University
- John Alvarino, Crew (M), George Washington University
- Tara Montgomery, Crew (W), San Diego State University
- Elizabeth Collins, Equestrian (W), Oklahoma State University
- Maria Gomez, Field Hockey, University of Louisville
- Blaise Taylor, Football, Arkansas State University
- Taylor Osborne, Golf (M), Hampton University
- Hanna Netisingha, Golf (W), Southern Illinois University Carbondale
- Chandler Eggleston, Gymnastics (M), University of Illinois Urbana Champaign
- Kennedi Harris, Gymnastics (W), University of Missouri
- Jake Clifford, Ice Hockey (M), Arizona State University
- Leah Lum, Ice Hockey (W), University of Connecticut
- Stanny Gilbertson, Lacrosse (M), Hobart and William Smith Colleges
- Michelle Staggers, Lacrosse (W), Duke University
- Claire Zanti, Rifle (W), North Carolina State University
- Mariano Cepeda, Soccer (M), Holy Family University
- Samantha Kokoska, Soccer (W), University of Washington
- Madeline Herrera, Softball, University of Houston-Victoria
- Ross Brown, Swimming & Diving (M), Washington University in St. Louis
- Danielle Bordes, Swimming & Diving (W), University of Connecticut
- Justin Zhang, Tennis (M), University of California, San Diego
- Lidia Yanes-Garcia, Tennis (W), Austin Peay State University
- Stanley Davis, Track & Field (M), Hampton University
- Simone Charley, Track & Field (W), Vanderbilt University
- Andrew Zhu, Volleyball (M), New York University
- Tola Itiola, Volleyball (W), Baylor University
- Diana Carballo, Water Polo (W), Marist College
- Noah Braun, Water Polo (M), George Washington University
- Ian Morken, Wrestling (M), Menlo College
- Marina Doi, Wrestling (W), King University

_Diverse: Issues In Higher Education_ is the nation’s only news magazine dedicated exclusively to diversity issues in higher education. Visit [www.DiverseEducation.com/Ashe](http://www.DiverseEducation.com/Ashe) for more info.

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