

For Immediate Release

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2017 Arthur Ashe Jr. Sports Scholars Awards Luncheon to be held at the University of Richmond

FAIRFAX, VA (February 28, 2017)— A luncheon to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the Arthur Ashe Jr. Sports Scholars Program will take place on **April 11, 2017**.

What: Luncheon, keynote address and awards recognition program dedicated to encouraging high school and college student-athletes set and achieve high academic goals.

Where: The University of Richmond Campus, Jepson Alumni Center

When: April 11, 2017, 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Cost: No charge. By invitation only.

Sponsors: Office of the President, University of Richmond; NCAA Office of Inclusion; *Diverse: Issues In Higher Education*

Who: High school and college athletes, parents, coaches and faculty members.

About this event:

In honor of the 25th anniversary of the Arthur Ashe Jr. Sports Scholars Program, *Diverse: Issues In Higher Education* will present the 2017 Arthur Ashe Jr. Sports Scholars awards luncheon.

The one-day event will focus on athletic achievement and academic excellence in student-athletes.

We expect approximately 200 highly motivated secondary and college athletes, parents, coaches and faculty members from the mid-Atlantic region to attend. The goal of the luncheon is to inspire and give practical direction to students to help them attain outstanding academic and athletic records simultaneously.

[Leland Melvin](#), retired astronaut and former NFL player, will deliver the keynote address. He was a wide receiver on the University of Richmond football team from 1982–85. The NCAA’s Office of Inclusion will also participate in the program.

About the Arthur Ashe Jr. Sports Scholars Program:

No athlete in the history of American sports better symbolizes intellectual greatness, principled integrity and athletic superiority than the late Arthur Ashe Jr. He manifested these traits in all that he did throughout his life. The meshing of high levels of academics and athletics were core values for him.

Sadly, too many of today’s student-athletes who strive to emulate Ashe have been overlooked. In fact, a commonly held belief is that these students do not exist, when, in fact, thousands of them frequent our college campuses.

In 1992, the [Arthur Ashe Jr. Sports Scholars Program](#) was instituted by *Black Issues In Higher Education* (now *Diverse: Issues In Higher Education*) magazine to rectify this misperception and honor undergraduate students of color who exemplify the standards set by former tennis great Arthur Ashe, Jr.

Each year, an entire edition of *Diverse* is dedicated to identifying such athletes and presenting them to our national readership. **To be included**, students have to compete in an intercollegiate sport; maintain a cumulative GPA of at least 3.2; be at least a sophomore academically and be active on their campus and in their community. This year over 1,200 student-athletes from across the country were nominated.

This year’s edition will be published on April 6. It will be distributed during the anniversary luncheon.

For more information on how you can be a part of this event, contact Frank J. Matthews at FrankJ@diverseeducation.com or 703-385-2981, ext. 3053.

Published since 1984, Diverse: Issues In Higher Education is the nation’s only newsmagazine dedicated exclusively to diversity issues in higher education. Visit online at: www.diverseeducation.com

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