

For Immediate Release

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***Diverse: Issues In Higher Education* announces finalists for 2018 Arthur Ashe Jr. Athlete of the Year**

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

They are (in alphabetical order):

Male:

- Jevon Carter, West Virginia University, Basketball, Sports Management
- Blaise Taylor, Arkansas State University, Football, Business Administration
- Justin Zhang, University of California, San Diego, Tennis, Human Biology

Female:

- Simone Charley, Vanderbilt University, Track & Soccer, Medicine, Health & Society
- Haley Clark, University of Georgia, Basketball, Financial Planning
- Samantha Kokoska, University of Washington, Soccer, Bioengineering

The finalists were chosen from 40 semifinalists, who were selected from more than 1,000 outstanding minority student-athletes nominated by their respective colleges or universities.

The male and female scholar-of-the-year as well as the entire class of 2018 Ashe scholars will be featured in the April 5, 2018, edition of ***Diverse***.

In 1992, ***Black Issues In Higher Education*** magazine, now ***Diverse***, established the Sports Scholars Awards to honor undergraduate students of color who exemplified the standards set by tennis great Arthur Ashe Jr.

A scholar and athlete, Ashe sought to expand opportunities for young people. Each year, ***Diverse*** invites every postsecondary institution in the country to participate in this awards program by nominating their outstanding sports scholars. In addition to their athletic ability, students named Arthur Ashe Jr. Sports Scholars must exhibit academic excellence as well as community activism.

To be included, students need to compete in an intercollegiate sport; maintain a cumulative grade point average of at least 3.2; and be active on their campuses or in their communities.

Past Ashe scholars include: Baylor University's Robert Griffin III (2011); the University of Tennessee's Kara Lawson (2003); San Diego State University's Marshall Faulk (1993); and Stanford

University's Simone Manuel (2017) — the first African-American woman to win an individual Olympic gold medal in swimming, just to name a few who have gone on to achieve great success.

Diverse: Issues In Higher Education is the nation's only news magazine dedicated exclusively to diversity issues in higher education. Visit www.DiverseEducation.com for more info.

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