



**YOUNG GIFTED
AND
BLACK**

**A Photo Gallery
of Success**



PORTLAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS
OFFICE OF SCHOOL-FAMILY PARTNERSHIPS

“ *Don't let anyone* rob you of your imagination, your creativity, or your curiosity. It's your place in the world; it's your life. Go on and do all you can with it, and make it the life you want to live.”

- *Mae Jemison, physician and NASA astronaut*

From our youngest elementary students to those soon graduating, the 24 students we celebrate this year as Young, Gifted and Black honorees exemplify the reason this program began six years ago. Their commitment to their schools, their families and their communities inspires all who know them, and gives me confidence that the future holds great promise for a more just and equitable world. Please join me in congratulating the 2015 Young, Gifted and Black honorees.

Carole Smith

Superintendent
Portland Public Schools

Young, Gifted and Black

Thursday, May 14, 2015

Lift Ev'ry Voice and Sing Alonzo Chadwick, vocalist
Graduate of Jefferson High School
Michael Dean, pianist
Graduate of Jefferson High School

Greeting of Guests/Welcome Carole Smith, Superintendent
Portland Public Schools

Introduction of Speaker Dr. Keith Dempsey
Assistant Professor, Counseling
George Fox University
Graduate of Benson High School

Keynote Address Nkenge Harmon Johnson
Chief Executive Officer of the Urban League of Portland
Graduate of Harriet Tubman Middle School

Recognition of Parents/Families/Guests Greg Belisle, Board Member
Portland Public Schools Board of Education

Presentation of Honorees Dr. Carolyn Leonard
Retired Administrator
Portland Public Schools
Graduate of Girls Polytechnic High School

A Tribute Richard Gilliam
Director, School-Family Partnerships

Closing Remarks Dr. Keith Dempsey
Assistant Professor, Counseling
George Fox University
Graduate of Benson High School

Finish Strong Alonzo Chadwick, vocalist
Graduate of Jefferson High School
Michael Dean, pianist
Graduate of Jefferson High School

Lift Ev'ry Voice and Sing

by James Weldon Johnson

Lift every voice and sing,
till earth and heaven ring,
Ring with the harmonies of liberty;
Let our rejoicing rise
High as the listening skies,
Let it resound loud as the rolling sea.
Sing a song full of the faith that the
dark past has taught us,
Sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us;
facing the rising sun of our new day begun,
let us march on till victory is won.

Stony the road we trod,
bitter the chastening rod,
felt in the days when hope unborn had died;
yet with a steady beat,
have not our weary feet
come to the place
for which our fathers died?
We have come over a way that with tears have been watered,
We have come, treading our path through the blood of the slaughtered,
out from the gloomy past,
till now we stand at last
where the white gleam
of our bright star is cast.

God of our weary years,
God of our silent tears,
thou who hast brought us thus far on the way;
thou who hast by thy might led us into the light,
keep us forever in the path, we pray.
Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met thee;
lest our hearts drunk with the wine of the world, we forget thee,
shadowed beneath thy hand,
may we forever stand,
true to our God,
true to our native land



Chime CJ Ambus

Eighth Grade • Boise-Eliot/Humboldt PK-8



Kendall Berry

Eleventh Grade · Wilson High School



Larry D. Brister, III

Twelfth Grade · Jefferson High School



Kiara Davis

Eleventh Grade · LEP High School



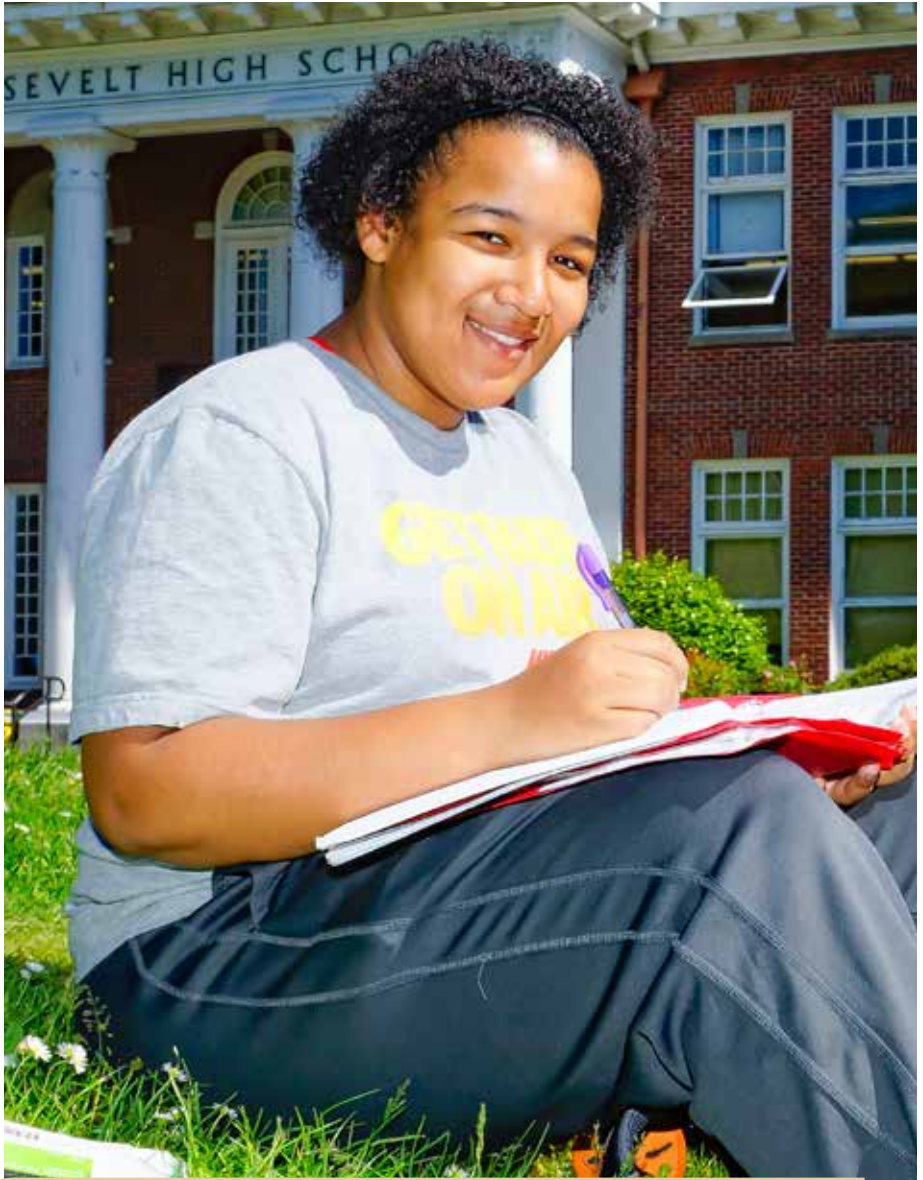
Jensen A. Ervin

Seventh Grade · Self Enhancement Inc. Academy



Jurnee Evans

Eighth Grade · George Middle School



Natashia Greene

Twelfth Grade · Roosevelt High School



Brianna Hayes

Twelfth Grade · Grant High School



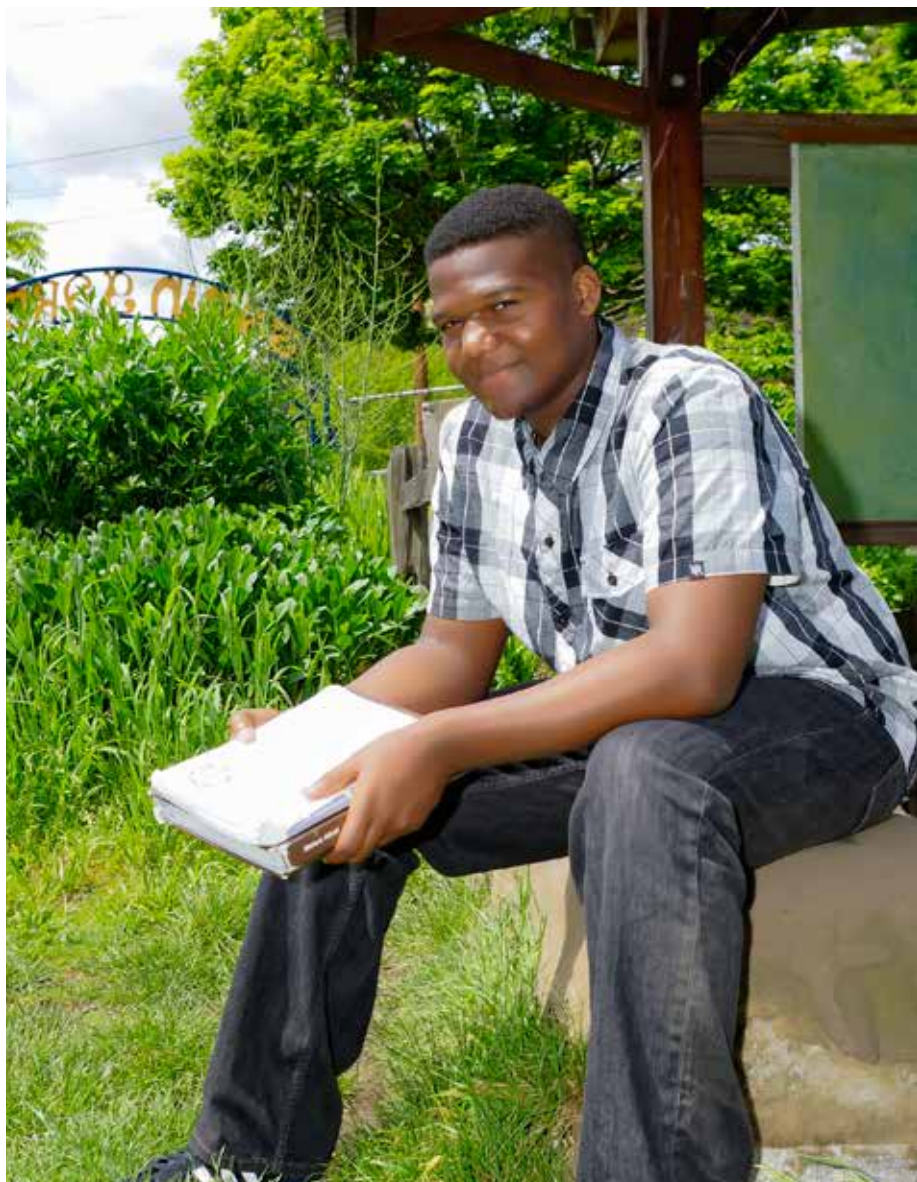
Dreyne Jackson

Twelfth Grade · Benson Polytechnic High School



Kaila Johnson

Twelfth Grade · Lincoln High School



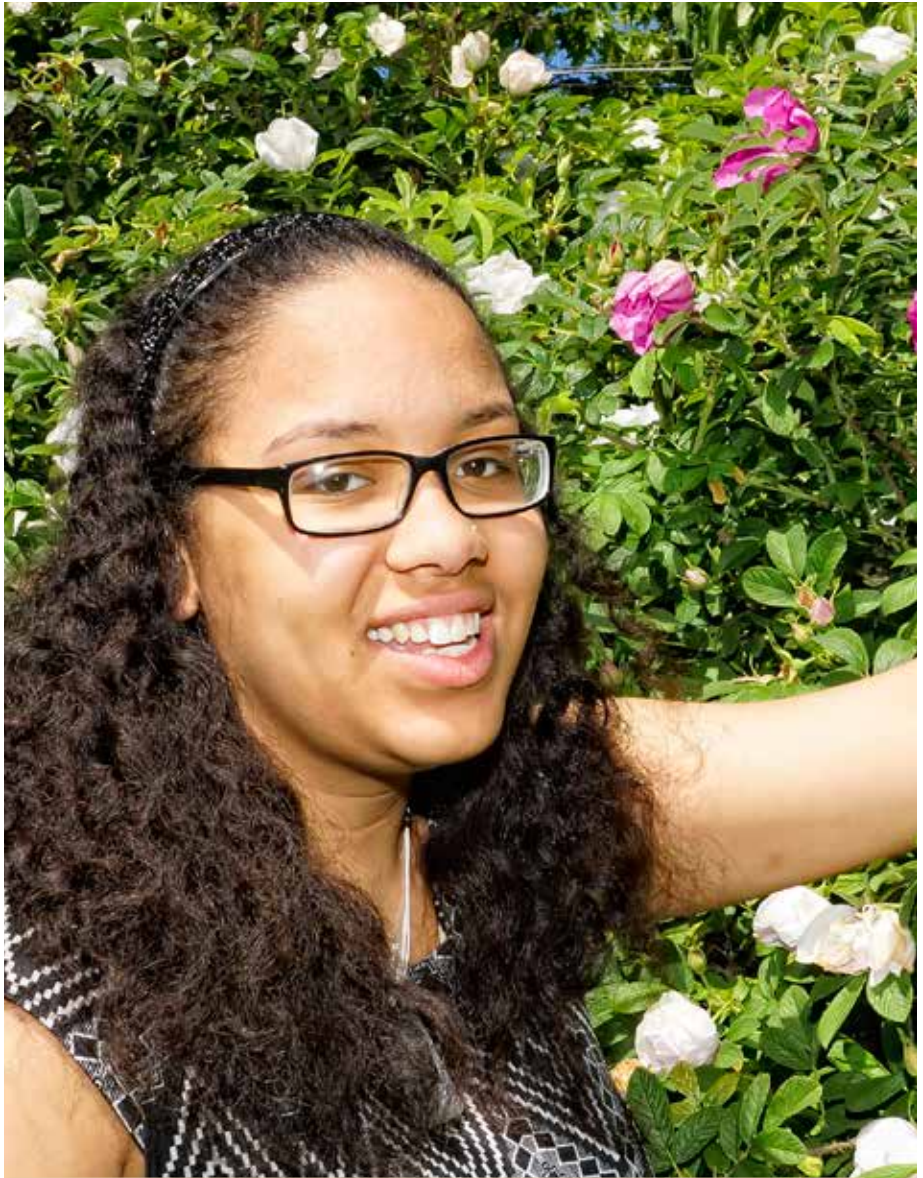
Traveon Johnson

Eighth Grade • Sabin School PK-8



Lillie Jones

Twelfth Grade · Roosevelt High School



Frances Chloe Jones-Whitman

Tenth Grade · Metropolitan Learning Center



Michaella Joseph

Twelfth Grade · Cleveland High School



Breonna Keller-Robbins

Eleventh Grade · Wilson High School



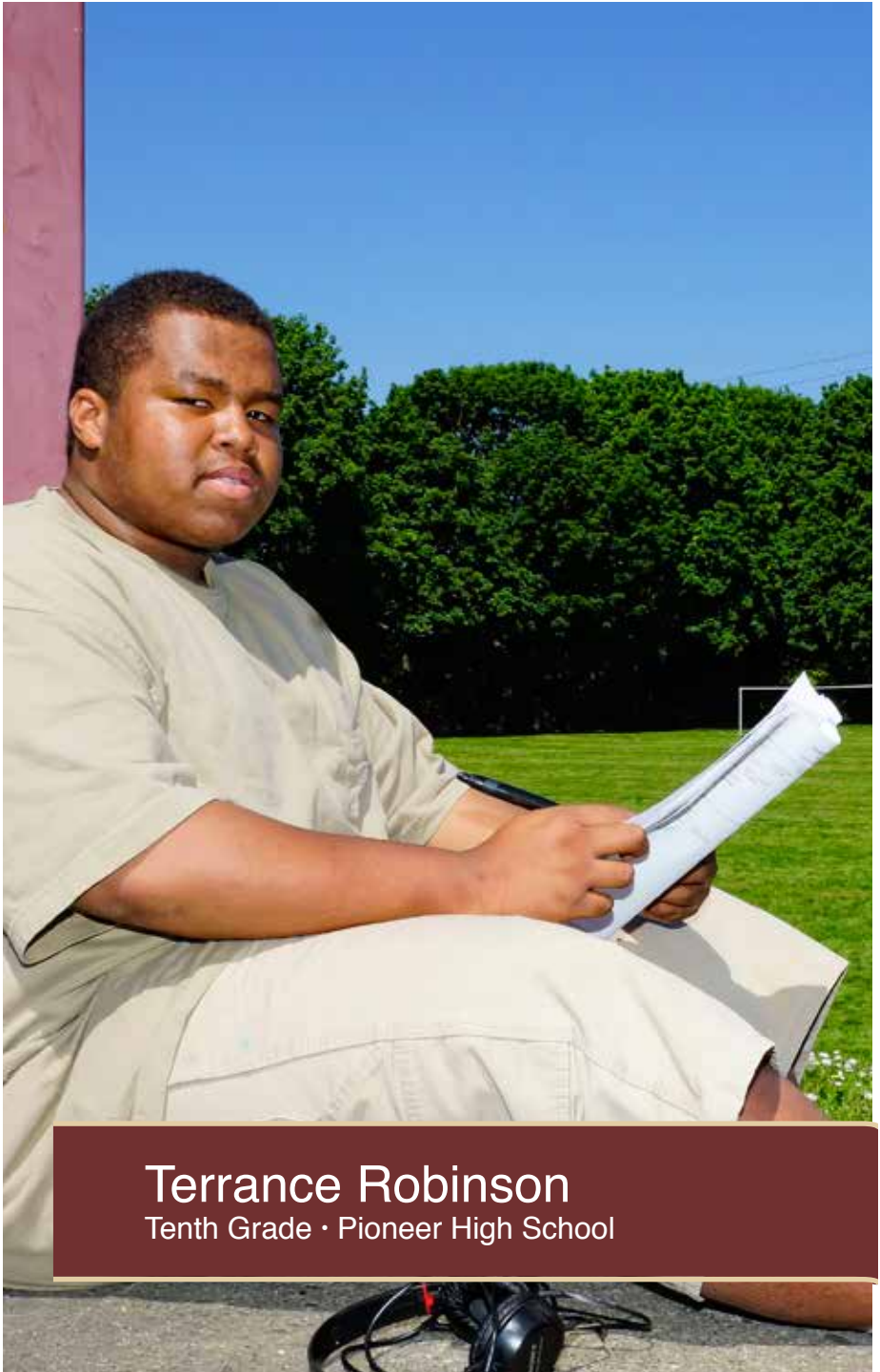
Cinclair Mathies

Eighth Grade • Mount Tabor Middle School



Chloe C. Riley

First Grade · King School PK-8



Terrance Robinson

Tenth Grade · Pioneer High School



Olai Scott

Fourth Grade · Beach PK-8



David Smith-Myles

Third Grade · Capitol Hill Elementary



Hunter Stewart

Twelfth Grade · Grant High School

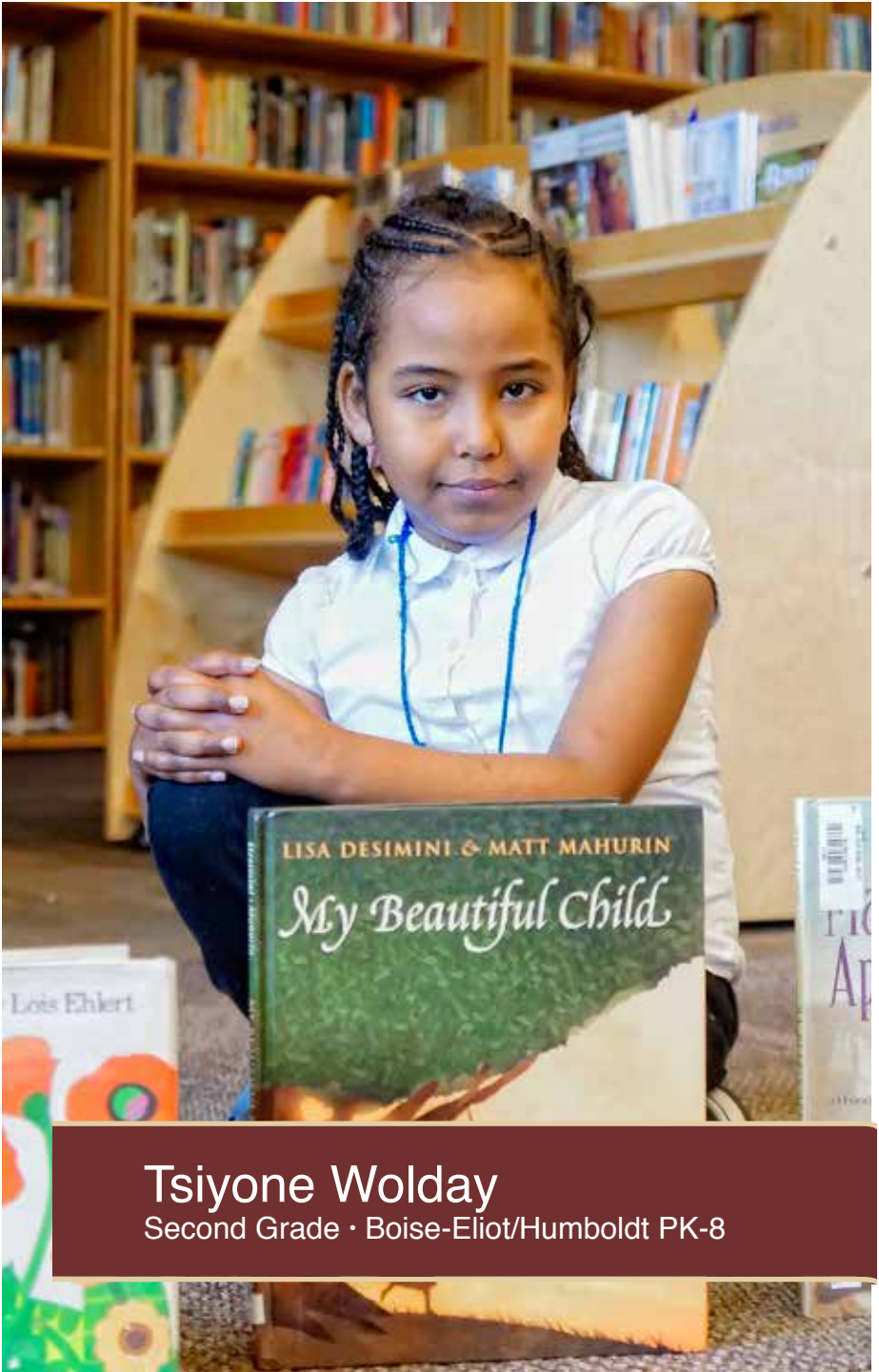


Alexis Whitney

Twelfth Grade · Benson Polytechnic High School



Ruby-Faye Williams
Kindergarten · Sabin School PK-8



Tsiyone Wolday

Second Grade · Boise-Eliot/Humboldt PK-8

Young, Gifted, and Black

2015

The Office of School and Family Partnerships is proud to present the 2015 Young, Gifted, and Black honorees. This is the sixth year that we have conducted this celebration. Young, Gifted, and Black highlights Portland Public Schools' and the community's dedication to celebrate the success of our Black students. It's crucial for every community to recognize its youth, our most precious gifts. When we uplift these accomplished young people, we uplift our entire community.

Our recognition could not come at a more important time. The death of Trayvon Martin and Jordan Davis, the unrest in Ferguson, Philadelphia and Baltimore reminds us of the perilous world our Young, Gifted, and Black honorees come of age in. That our honorees have remained focused, have maximized their intrinsic motivation and have made a firm commitment to excellence, is not only reassuring but galvanizing for our whole community. The journeys of our Young, Gifted, and Black students are an inspiration to us all.

President Obama said, "I will never forget that the only reason I'm standing here today is because somebody, somewhere stood up for me when it was risky. Stood up when it was hard. Stood up when it wasn't popular. And because that somebody stood up, a few more stood up. And then a few thousand stood up. And then a few million stood up. And standing up, with courage and clear purpose, they somehow managed to change the world."

So it is not only just, it is right that we honor these incredibly gifted young people. Let us honor the families they come from, the teachers who inspired them, the community members who nurtured them. And as a community, let us continue to uplift and support, beyond this joyous celebration, our 2015 Young, Gifted, and Black honorees.

Richard Gilliam

Director

Office of School and Family Partnerships

Portland Public Schools