



For Immediate Release
Bridge Builders Foundation

Melvin Jackson, Jr., 323.868.6661
Melvin.jackson@bridgebuildersla.org
Event Chair

James Breedlove, 562.618.4389
James.breedlove@bridgebuildersla.org
Foundation President

**BRIDGE BUILDERS FOUNDATION TO AWARD \$73,000
IN COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS TO AFRICAN AMERICAN MEN
36TH-Annual Salute and Scholarship Awards**

LOS ANGELES, CA (April 23, 2018) – The Bridge Builders Foundation will host its 36th-Annual Salute and Scholarship Awards on June 2, 2018. Sixty thousand dollars in scholarships will be awarded to the 2018 Start-to-Finish Program scholarship winners. The event will take place at the Torrance Doubletree Hotel located at 21333 Hawthorne Blvd, Torrance, CA 90503, from 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm.

The Foundation will also honor two leaders whose achievements model exemplary community service. City of Inglewood Mayor, James Butts, Jr. will receive the Foundation’s *Manhood & Uplift Award*. With over 45 years of public safety and municipal government experience, Mayor Butts has served as Inglewood’s mayor since 2011 putting him in a position to help spearhead the city’s rejuvenation.

The Hon. Judge John Meigs will receive the *Scholarship & Perseverance Award*. Judge Meigs began his career with the Los Angeles County Public Defender’s Office and retired in 2014 as the Site Supervising Judge of the Inglewood Courthouse. His legacy and inspiration to aspiring students are far-reaching.

\$73,000 in scholarship will be awarded to high-performing African American male students from schools throughout Los Angeles County. According to Foundation President James Breedlove, “Bridge Builders initially made a commitment to award 10 student scholarships. However, this year, there was uneasiness about turning down 40-plus awesome students, so we created 15 additional scholarships.” Breedlove defines the Foundation as “bold, deliberate

and unapologetically committed to helping young Black boys.” Understanding the nuances of stereotypes African American boys and men face, he states, “Don’t let anybody tell you our young black men are lazy,” said Breedlove.

Tickets to the event and sponsorships opportunities are available. For more information please visit their website at <http://www.bridgebuildersla.org/salute/>

About the Bridge Builders Foundation

The Bridge Builders Foundation seeks to remove the barriers of race, poverty, ignorance and despair by providing targeted programs benefitting youth of color, with specific emphasis on African American boy and young men. The foundation operates three programs. A year-round Saturday Science Academy; A Start-to-Finish Scholarship and Scholastic Mentoring and Coaching Program; and, targeted mentoring program benefitting youth K-12.

Bridge Builders programs have grown to serve over 300 students annually. The Foundation has given over \$600,000 in scholarships. The marine science summer camp was expanded in 2012 to a year-round science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) program touching 50-60 male and female minority students annually. The mentoring program is now a comprehensive mentoring and tutoring program in partnership with the school system and touches over 150 elementary through high school students annually.



2017 Start-to-Finish Scholarship Winners