

AKA Akademy Presents Annual Award

St. Petersburg, Florida – The St. Petersburg Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. and the Youth Development Foundation of Pinellas County presented The Evolution of Kings and Queens during its annual AKAdemy awards program on May 25 at the Palladium Theater. More than 200 middle and high school youth were recognized for their talents, leadership development and academic achievements.

The AKA AKAdemy is part of the Youth Development Foundation of Pinellas County and is funded by the Juvenile Welfare Board. Youth participants from the Exquisite Gem and Pathfinder program benefit from life learning skills as well as educational and leadership development training during the school year. Volunteerism is also encouraged through a host of community service projects.

This year 17 graduating seniors from various Pinellas County High Schools received recognition awards and scholarships during the event. The sorority awarded more than \$3,200 in merit scholarships to the following winners: Tynequia Williams, DeiyJuan Christie, Courtney Moore, Rejai Goodridge and Shaunte Shedrick. AKAdemic book scholarships in the amount of \$100 each were presented to Daniel Clarke, Dashawna Forman, Kevin Rogers and Keosha Matt. The Eta Rho Educational Services Foundation of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity presented scholarships which totaled \$3000 to Kevin Rogers, Shante Shedrick and Brandon Smith. During the event, AKAdemy students dazzled audience members with creative dances, step routines and strutted down the runway modeling impressive hot summer fashions.

Also, special recognition was given to 26 members of the Emerging Young Leaders program – one of the sorority's signature programs that targets middle school girls in grades 6th through 8th promoting leadership development, civic engagement, enhanced academic preparation and character building. Since 1996, the AKA AKAdemy has presented to the community an annual awards program to recognize young leaders and pay tribute to students with high academic achievement. "We have been putting on a version of the Showcase for 15 years and it gets better and better each year. I am eternally grateful for the AKAdemy staff and the choreographers that commit themselves year after year to assist with the production of the Showcase. The students should be proud, their parents should be proud and I am especially proud of their showmanship and academic accomplishments," said Manitia Moultrie, AKAdemy program director.