

NATIONAL

Black Student From Chicago is the First to Ever Get a Perfect ACT Score at His School

NATIONWIDE — Mario Hoover, an African American student from Chicago, is the first to get a perfect score on the ACT Test in his high school's 42-year history. He is part of the only less than 1% of students who achieve a perfect ACT score across the country.

Mario, who attends Providence-St. Mel School, has a 3.9 GPA and takes four AP classes. He says that he prepared for the ACT test by enrolling in a prep course. He took practice exams and the first time he took it, he got a 29.

Aside from excelling academically, Hoover also enjoys singing as a choir member. He also finds time to do volunteering work at a local hospital and the community Boys and Girls Club.

"I want others to know that they can do the same. I've been saying a lot today that we are all capable of more than we think we can do," he told Fox32 Chicago.



Mario says that he hopes to go to Columbia University after graduating high school. He said he dreams to become a neurosurgeon one day.

Winn Makes History as First African American Woman to Lead AIEA

By K. Dawn Rutledge, Ed.D.

NASHVILLE, TN — The Association of International Education Administrators (AIEA) ushered in a new era of leadership by installing the first African American woman to lead the organization in its 40-year history.

Nashville native, Dr. Jewell G. Winn, was passed the gavel Feb. 22 at the organization's annual conference held in New Orleans during Black History Month. As president, Winn will focus on initiatives around Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (JEDI) as well as a Presidential Fellows program designed to engage and prepare the next generation of international higher education leaders. Further, Winn wants to enhance internationalization efforts and increase participation in the association, along with building more awareness among Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs).

"As the first Black woman elected to lead this organization, I recognize it is a honor and responsibility not to be taken lightly," Winn said. "I have a strong passion for international education and,



While celebrating the AIEA's 40th anniversary, outgoing AIEA President David Fleshler, right, officially passes the gavel to incoming AIEA President Jewell Winn during the association's annual meeting held in New Orleans, Feb. 16-23, 2022.

as president, I will be collaborating with dedicated and talented individuals across the world to make connections that create global educational opportunities for students, including those at HBCUs. There is much work to do, and I am excited to be in a position to influence change."

Winn has more than 30 years of

experience in higher education. She currently serves as senior international officer, executive director for international affairs, chief diversity officer, and assistant professor in the Department of Educational Administration at Tennessee State University. Additionally, she serves on the board of directors for the National Association of Diversity Offi-

National Kidney Foundation Highlights Disparities, Urges People to Know their Risk During National Kidney Month

Your doctor can tell you whether you have kidney disease and what to do about it.

March is National Kidney Month, and the National Kidney Foundation (NKF) is marking the occasion by warning the public about persistent disparities in chronic kidney disease (CKD).

The warning is part of an urgent call to action for all people, especially people in communities of color, to take a minute for their kidneys, know their risk factors and find out "Are You the 33%?"

"Are You the 33%?" is a public awareness effort by NKF focusing on educating people about five major risk factors for kidney disease: diabetes, high blood pressure, heart disease, obesity, and family history. One in 3 adults (33%) in the U.S. are at risk for kidney disease.

"Understanding the importance of early detection of kidney disease and all risk factors is the first step to

successfully treating it," said Kevin Longino, CEO of NKF and a kidney transplant recipient. "Disparities are a huge problem, and the science is telling us loudly that not all risk is biological or genetic. Societal factors that influence health, such as poverty, education, food insecurity, and housing, result in all communities--especially communities of color--in worsened health outcome. In other words, your zip code can be a bigger factor than your genetic code in developing kidney disease."

Recognition of these social issues reflects a broader call by NKF to re-examine institutional policies and practices and to identify where structural racism affects risk for developing kidney disease and overall kidney healthcare.

"The data has been persistent," Longino explained. "Communities of color, particularly Hispanic or Latino and African American or Black people, face a disproportionate burden of



kidney disease and kidney failure. It's another reason why it is absolutely critical people become aware of their risk."

NKF has developed a one-minute quiz at MinuteForYourKidneys.org to provide everyone with a fast and free way to gauge their personal risk. The

quiz is available in both English and Spanish. You can also join the conversation on social media by using the hashtag #MinuteForYourKidneys.

To learn more about kidney disease and how to maintain optimal kidney health, visit www.kidney.org.

How The Absence of Black Women In Clinical Trials Impacts The Black Breast Cancer Mortality Rate

When disparities in regard to breast cancer survival rates among Black women in comparison to their white counterparts are discussed, a contributing factor that is not typically addressed is the absence of Black women in clinical trials. Oftentimes, the default reasons that are given for the alarming death rate include limited access to healthcare and socioeconomic barriers. However, according to TOUCH Black Breast Cancer Alliance founder Ricki Fairley, the elephant in the room is limited participation in clinical trials.

"A lot of those factors are in play, but when you really look at the science, Black women have never participated in clinical research to the extent that the drugs work for our bodies," Fairley tells EBONY. "We weren't really included in clinical trials. The average participation of Black women in clinical trials is 3 percent."

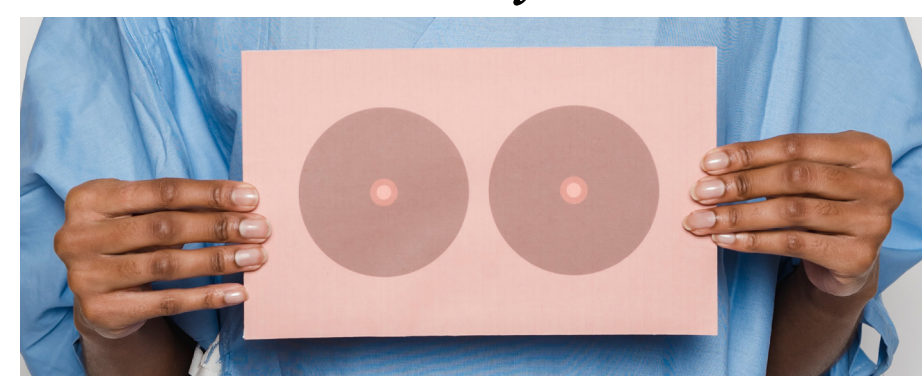
While it's easy to assume that treatment and breast cancer affects every woman in the same way, Fairley argues that breast cancer attacks Black women differently, which is what inspired the triple-negative breast cancer survivor and thriver to launch the organization.

"I started the foundation because I felt like not enough science was being brought to the table concerning Black women. I started talking about Black breast cancer because Black women have a different disease. The mortality numbers are horrific," says Fairley. "The drugs that we have don't work on our bodies."

Her discovery, paired with her determination to eradicate Black breast cancer before her youngest granddaughter hits puberty, inspired Fairley to partner with breastcancer.org to launch When We Tri(al)—a movement that seeks to educate Black women on the importance of clinical trial participation.

"I wanted to bring more science to the table and conversation to get people to talk about developing the right drugs for us and ultimately eradicate Black breast cancer," Fairley says. "Black women at least deserve mortality rate parity. Right now, we're dying at a 41 percent higher rate."

As it stands, Black women who survive breast cancer have a 39 percent higher rate of recurrence, according to the Oncology Times, and a 71 percent



greater chance of relative death. Worse Black women under 35 develop breast cancer at twice the rate of white women, which is 5 years earlier than they are advised to undergo their first mammograms.

"I want to make it a Black women's issue to get people to understand clinical trials before we need one," expresses Fairley. "We don't talk about health at the kitchen table. People don't understand what the science is and how it works."

Last month, TOUCH BBCCA kicked off the When We Tri(al) initiative officially launched during an episode of "The Doctor Is In"—a weekly Black-

Doctor.org web series hosted by White House Correspondent April Ryan.

"We're trying to break down those barriers and restore the trust with the right information," says Fairley of the initiative. "Doctors are not readily inviting Black women into trials. The purpose of our movement is to arm people with information to understand what a clinical trial is and how it can work for them and their bodies. We really need to advance the science."

(To learn more about When We Tri(al) and the TOUCH Black Breast Cancer Alliance or to learn more about clinical trials, visit touchbbca.org. This story was first published by Ebony)

SPECK: from front

information, call (423) 425-4679.

In addition to the generous sponsorship from CHI Memorial, funding is provided by:

- the Ruth S. Holmberg Professorship in American Music
- the UTC Honors College
- the UTC Chancellor's Office.

Community partners in this event include:

- CHI Memorial Arts Therapies and Well-being Center
- Tennessee Suicide Prevention Network
- NAMI of Chattanooga (National Alliance on Mental Illness).
- Volunteer Behavioral Health

Campus partners include:

- UTC Counseling Center
- UTC Center for Wellbeing
- UTC chapter of Psi Chi (student honor society in Psychology)
- the MSW Program at UTC
- UTC Music Therapy programs.

Representatives of each of these agencies and groups will be present at the concert and offer information to interested persons in the lobby of the venue after the concert.

Graphic design by Sadie Montague, UTC Art Student, four-year terms.

See the **SPECK** Flyer on Page 8

cers in Higher Education (NADOHE). Her term as president will last one-year.

One conference participant noted the history-making moment as "empowering," stating, "it is a true honor to be standing with our newest president but, most importantly, our first African American female president of AIEA. Thank you for not only acknowledging, but empowering young leaders across the globe."

AIEA is dedicated exclusively to senior leaders in the field of international education with members serving as senior international officers that support international higher education, share institutional strategies and a voice on matters of public policy. AIEA brings together international education leaders into dialogue with each other, their counterparts around the world, organizations that promote international education, and organizations concerned with the shaping and management of international higher education.