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Contact: Teniqua Broughton

Cell: 480-707-9977

Email: stateofblackaz@gmail.com



UNSUNG HEROES RECOGNIZED AT COMMUNITY LUMINARIES CEREMONY APRIL 28, 2016

Phoenix, AZ—Selflessly devoting time and effort volunteering at local hospitals, schools, churches and more, Community Luminaries tirelessly work to make a difference without thought of reward or recognition. State of Black Arizona (SBAZ) brings such unsung heroes to light through its annual Community Luminaries ceremony that recognizes diligent and deserving individuals for being an asset to the community, affecting change and contributing to the quality of life of African Americans in Arizona.

Individuals are nominated by the community. The 2016 selection committee, chaired by State Representative Reginald Bolding, Jr. meticulously reviewed nominees and selected the following individuals as this year's selfless, unsung and devoted honorees:

- **Katia Brown**, Chief Development Officer, Central Arizona Shelter Services (CASS)
- **Trehon Cockrell- Coleman**, Software Engineer I, Raytheon
- **Chris Crockett**, Assistant Head Varsity Football Coach/Offensive Coordinator, Central High School
- **Booker T. Evans Jr.**, Partner at Ballard Spahr, LLP
- **Coral Evans**, Flagstaff City Council Member
- **Allison Otu**, Director of Outreach and Communications for University of Arizona(UA)
- **Essen Otu**, Diversity and Community Affairs for Mountain Park Health Center
- **Pamela Neal**, Owner/Director of Safe Schools "Focus on Excellence" Youth Program
- **William Ronald (Bill) Norwood**, Original Tuskegee Airmen/ Retired pilot for United Airlines
- **Ginger Spencer**, Assistant Public Works Director, City of Phoenix

Including a special luminary award for one of the founding individuals whom started the Community Luminary awards, **Kenja Hassan**, Director, Cultural Relations & Special Projects Community and Municipal Relations for Office of University Affairs at Arizona State University

What: Ceremony honoring 2016 Community Luminaries with Emcee Susan Casper of ABC15 and host of Sonoran Living

When: Thursday, April 28, 2015 5:30 –8:00pm

Where: Gateway Community College, 108 N. 40th Street Phoenix, AZ 85034

RSVP: [HTTP://2016-COMMUNITY-LUMINARY.EVENTBRITE.COM](http://2016-COMMUNITY-LUMINARY.EVENTBRITE.COM)

The State of Black Arizona Community Luminaries 2016 is supported by partnerships with Arizona Community Foundation, ASU Foundation, Arizona Lottery, Maricopa Community College District and Southwest Gas.

About the State of Black Arizona:

The State of Black Arizona represents a bridge between the academics and the community initiated to explore and better understand the status, issues, and concerns of African Americans in Arizona. The data produced as a result of this collaboration is intended to inform both decision makers and the grassroots community alike; to compel both toward more concerted action on solutions that improve the lives of all Arizonans. The State of Black Arizona is also a forum for discussion about the experiences of Blacks in Arizona to foster deeper ties to each other and the state we've chosen to call home.

For more information about the State of Black Arizona Community Luminaries please visit our website at www.stateofblackarizona.org

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