

2014 Unsung Heroes

Tyler Swanson began to write his unsung song in the early months of 2013 when he learned of the harmful legislation, known as HB589, coming from the NC General Assembly. On April 12, 2013, Tyler along with other students organized a march in downtown Greensboro called "Voters for Free Voting". In the next week, Tyler and an assembly of students from across the state, sat for five hours with tape over their mouths as a way of showing the representatives that if they passed the bill voices would be silenced. He also spoke at a press conference at the request of the NC NAACP president. Tyler is also a member of NAACPs Youth and Colligate division and believes that young people can play a pivotal role in civil rights movements and that this legacy should be continued for generations to come.

Kashawn Little never understood the meaning of an HBCU experience until his arrival at A&T. He believes that HBCUs were reestablished to give African Americans the opportunity of education and a platform to stand on. Kashawn set forth his platform and established the Honors Program Executive Board, which had been inactive for years. His goal was to establish a strong foundation for future honors students to lead and have a voice. This strong aspiration inspired him to establish an Honors Scholarship for the Honors Program. Kashawn strongly believes in giving back and lets his background as a foster child drive him further and further. Working as a part of the Child Welfare Education Collaborative, he plans to attend graduate school and continue to serve children in the foster care system. This Unsung Hero embodies the A&T Four by exuding selflessness and passion for service.

Maurice Townsend honors hard work and helping those in need of mentoring and financial assistance. Maurice devotes hours toward uplifting youth and assisting the "Fairmont Youth Council," which targets youth at risk for violence and drug abuse. Maurice was awarded the Young Ambassadors Award by the mayor of Fairmont. He founded the "Keep Moving Forward Community Scholarship Fund," which caters to high school students accepted into a two or four year university. The fund provides a laptop, printer, backpack and other school supplies to the awarded senior. Maurice has also served as Mister Cooper Hall and has spoken at on and off campus programs and now serves as the Outreach Chairperson for the Society of Women Engineers.

Kayla Harris believes that agriculture has an impact on everyday life, and with this belief Kayla went on to found not only North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University's *first* campus farmers market but the first HBCU farmers market in the United States. To make this dream come to life, Kayla connected with the NC A&T State University Cooperative Extension Program and the Center for Environmental Farming System- a partnership of NC A&T State and NC State University. This allowed Kayla to explore how other students established their successful farmers markets. Like the A&T Four, Kayla started this project as a freshman and is leaving her legacy by continuing the farmers market into this current year. Kayla also played a lead role in the "Text in the Community" conversations around the book *Salt, Sugar Fat* and assisted host Michael Moss, author of the book, when he visited our campus last September.

