

African-American Achievers honored for a dedicated lifetime

Colin Brown, president and CEO of JM Family Enterprises Inc., recently announced the 2013

African-American Achievers. The five recipients will be honored for their contributions to South Florida at the 21st annual African-American Achievers awards ceremony April 18 at 6:15 p.m. at the Broward County Convention Center. This year's Jerome Edmund Gray Youth Achiever award, presented by The Jim Moran Foundation, will also be announced at the event.

In recognition of this year's achievers and their efforts to improve the quality of life in our community, JM Family and subsidiaries Southeast Toyota and JM Lexus will make a charitable contribution of \$40,000 - \$10,000 for each category - to the charity of the honoree's choice. Including the contributions to be made this year, JM Family has donated more than \$320,000 in the names of African-American Achievers.

The 2013 honorees were selected by an independent panel of community leaders from Miami-Dade, Broward and Palm Beach counties that also included former achievers.

"Our late founder Jim Moran established the African-American Achievers awards to celebrate individuals who go above and beyond to make a difference in the community and inspire future generations," Brown said. "Our 2013 Achievers exemplify the role models Mr. Moran wanted to recognize, and we are proud to carry on his vision."

Being recognized in the Arts & Culture division is Dinizulu Gene Tinnie, an artist, author, educator and activist, who uses his talent to preserve the heritage and culture of the African-American community in South Florida. Tinnie moved to Miami in 1974 after earning a master's degree in New York and studying linguistics and literature in France. Tinnie's paintings, sculptures and monument designs are influenced by his passion for historic preservation



Newton B. Sanon, left, Dinizulu Gene Tinnie, Albert and Bérénice Chauvet, and Fedrick Ingram

Submitted photo

and social justice. His work on behalf of the freedom struggle in South Africa earned him the African name Dinizulu in memory of the great Zulu kings. Over the last 39 years, he has left his creative mark across South Florida with art displayed at festivals, city beautification projects and in private collections, galleries, and museums, including the prestigious Corcoran Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C.

In the Business & Entrepreneurism division, the award will recognize Albert and Bérénice Chauvet. The successful entrepreneurs built their international company, Chauvet, by focusing on three principles: value, innovation and performance. Chauvet manufactures professional entertainment lighting for the production, touring, DJ and corporate event markets, and has more than 100 full-time employees. The company has earned numerous industry awards, and Chauvet's products are regularly used at high-profile concerts, well-known sports venues including Marlins Park and Sun Life Stadium, and iconic structures like the Eiffel Tower in Paris. Chauvet also strives to be environmentally conscious, producing the latest energy-saving fixtures and incorporating green enhancements at its corporate headquarters.

The Community Service division of the award will honor Newton Sanon, who has dedicated his career to helping underserved members of the community realize their potential for greatness. After earning bachelor's and master's degrees, Sanon worked for the Minnesota Vikings and his hometown Miami Dolphins to support football operations, which included serving as a youth advocate teaching life skills to inner-city children. In 2000, he became the project director for a Broward Community College program offering tutoring and mentoring to middle school students living in low-income housing developments. Today, Sanon is the president and CEO of Opportunities Industrialization Center of South Florida (OIC), an agency that provides job and life skills training and employment opportunities to disadvantaged residents with the goal of helping them become self-sufficient, productive members of the community.

Being recognized with the Education award is Fedrick Ingram, whose life has been influenced by his three passions: teaching, music and family. Ingram was inspired to become an educator after his childhood teachers believed in his potential and laid the groundwork for his success. Ingram earned a degree in music education from Bethune-Cookman University, becoming the first member of his family to graduate from college. His commitment to teaching and building character in children led him to establish the Advanced Placement Music Theory program at two inner-city Miami schools. Over an eight-year period, more than 90 percent of the program's students received higher-education music scholarships. Today, he serves as the secretary and treasurer of the United Teachers of Dade, the fourth largest teacher's union in the country, and he will begin his term as president in May.

The community is invited to attend the awards ceremony April 18. To RSVP for the free event, visit www.africanamericanachievers.com or call 866-516-2497. ■