

News release



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Henry M. Jackson High School senior receives [NAACP](#) Shirley Walthall award
Award for excellence in character, leadership and outstanding service to the community



Janice Greene, President of Snohomish County Branch NAACP presenting the award to Viante

Last month, [Henry M. Jackson High School](#) senior Viante Dile-Basnight was selected as the Snohomish County Branch NAACP ([SCB NAACP](#)) *Shirley Walthall Youth Leadership Award* winner for 2013-14.

"The SCB NAACP [Shirley Walthall](#) *Student Leadership Award* is awarded to one of our Students of the Month," explained branch president, Janice Greene.

"It was a very short discussion as Viante made such an impact on our membership present. We were proud to award the *Shirley Walthall Student Leadership Award* to Viante."

"He is a student with quiet reserve yet powerful influence on his surrounding environment," said [Connie Sperry](#), his counselor at Henry M. Jackson High School. "Students seem to feel safe in his presence, both academically and socially, knowing he will not judge them but will accept their individual uniqueness with

respect of who each is as a person. He is a natural leader exhibiting a gentle and positive demeanor with a confident presence that permeates the social climate around him. Viante seems to epitomize someone who is "comfortable in his own skin" and pursues his academics with a focused vigor."

Since freshman year, Viante has taken both honors and Advanced Placement classes. He has volunteered as a Link Crew leader helping incoming freshmen acclimate to high school life. He was selected to participate in the [Bank of America Leaders program](#) held in Washington, DC. He has continued his leadership this year as Washington President of TSA ([Technology Student Association](#)), winning first place in various categories of competition and is also an officer for JHS Key Club, an organization focusing on community service, especially for children and youth programs.

Viante will be recognized at the [Snohomish County Branch NAACP Freedom Fund Gala](#) held on March 1, 2014 at 6 p.m. in the Comcast Arena Conference Center in Everett, WA.

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