

# HAMPTON VA

## NEWS RELEASE

For immediate release

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## Unity Commission recognizes volunteers, organizations supporting diversity

August 30, 2017 - The 2017 Unity Award winners include a volunteer mentor with the city's youth violence prevention program, an organization dedicated to helping Hampton's young people, and a historic theatre devoted to cultural diversity:

- Steven Dennis has demonstrated a continued commitment to diversity and inclusion for all citizens of Hampton. A graduate of Phoebus High School who works for Hampton's Police Department, Dennis also serves as a volunteer mentor for the city's youth violence prevention program, on the mentorship committee for the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc., and much, much more. The nomination form noted that "Steve's volunteer efforts and devotion to Hampton has reduced the number of youth negatively interacting with police... his mentorship and sponsoring of scholarships for Hampton high school graduates has had a major impact on the lives of those he has come in contact with."
- The nomination form for Alternatives Inc., a not-for-profit dedicated to youth development, said The organization: reflects "a commitment to accepting differences, harmony, and open dialogue. In addition, due to the internal culture of the agency, staff, interns, and volunteers serve as role models to children and families." The nomination added that: "Alternatives also serves all children and youth in the community and demonstrates an environment of acceptance of differences, tolerance, and respectful dialogue when speaking about racial and cultural issues."
- The nomination form for The American Theatre was clear and straightforward. It noted that "The American Theatre over the past twenty-five years has continued to expand and offer as stated in their program: 'unique inclusive, renowned and engaging performers from around the world and around the corner!' " With performances by artists as diverse as Julie Fowlis, Steep Canyon Rangers, Dianne Reeves, the Jones Family Singers and The Fly Dance Company, the theatre has focused on a diverse geographic and musical range.

To learn more about the awards, and the Unity Commission, visit [www.hampton.gov/unity](http://www.hampton.gov/unity).