

Black History Month Scholarship Essay
“Accessing the Future through the Hard Work of the Past”
By Terrance Hudson, 7th Grade, Powell Middle School,
Brooksville

Throughout history, achievement has been made through the hard work of the past. Abolitionists like Sojourner Truth, also known as the “Lord’s colored preacher”, and Frederick Douglass who spoke out against injustice gave the civil rights movement in the 1950’s an early voice against inequality. Martin Luther King, Jr’s powerful rallies and speeches gave our newly elected President Barack Obama a chance to rally the people for the theme of change. Now the chances for a brighter future will be determined by the seeds we plant now. One way that I can contribute to a brighter future for Florida and all of its citizens is by making citizens aware of their state’s culture.

Florida has such a vibrant history. Since being discovered by the Spaniards, it has been and continues to be one of the fastest growing states in the country. With its unique structure and way of life, Florida is considered a melting pot within a melting pot. It is extremely important that Floridians should know about their culture. That way, we are better able to understand what our state needs to become better. President Obama calls for service saying that, “...it has been the risk-takers, the doers, [and] the makers of things” that has given our country the push it needs to succeed. By becoming aware of our culture, we are being “the doers” and are actively taking part in putting more of an effort into preserving our state’s culture. Florida is filled with diversity. If we can come together and keep that diversity alive, we can realize that this diversity is what unites us—what makes us special. I believe that is what makes President Obama unique. It is not because he is African American that got him elected; it is because he gave us something to believe in—he gave us back our hope. It is with this hope that we can come together for the betterment of our future as Floridians. By having more classes in school that educate the children about their Floridian roots as well as making volunteering more appealing to the youth, it could encourage them to volunteer at an earlier age and make the history of Florida exciting for the younger kids. People follow by example and what better way than to show the people of Florida how important it is to educate.

Overall, I believe the best way to contribute to a brighter future for Florida and all of its citizens is to make all citizens aware of their rich culture. Coming together for a common goal will unite us all and educate at the same time. It is all about unity and the need for it. That’s what led to the election of the first African American and the Emancipation Proclamation led by Abraham Lincoln. Hopefully our future generations will carry on what we start and will lead us to a very promising future for our state.