

# HAMPTON VA

## NEWS RELEASE

For immediate release

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## Ceremony will honor 2015 Unity Awards winners

**May 26, 2015** - The 2015 Unity Awards – recognizing individuals, organizations, businesses and initiatives that have had a positive impact on diversity awareness and inclusion in Hampton – will be presented June 11 at the American Theatre.

The awards are sponsored by the Citizens' Unity Commission, which promotes and sponsors activities and events that bring citizens together. The awards ceremony starts at 6 p.m. Afterwards, guests are invited to a reception with light refreshments.

Award recipients include:

- Michael Forde of the Virginia Caribbean-American Cultural Association – for demonstrated commitment to cultural diversity through community involvement.
- Betty Smith, retired dance instructor – for promoting diversity through the arts, demonstrating a commitment to healthy racial and cultural relations, and maintaining a commitment to cultural diversity through community involvement.
- Jeffrey Stern, artistic director for the City of Hampton - for advancing an awareness of diversity issues and concerns in our community and demonstrating a commitment to cultural diversity through community involvement.
- Hampton Public Library – for advancing an awareness of diversity issues and concerns in our community, demonstrating a commitment to cultural diversity, and fostering positive dialogue between diverse cultural groups.
- Peninsula READS – for advancing an awareness of diversity issues and concerns in our community and demonstrating a commitment to cultural diversity through community involvement

- Alcoa Howmet – for advancing an awareness of diversity issues, demonstrating a commitment to healthy racial and cultural relations, and dispelling myths and misperceptions about diversity issues.
- Faith community participants in the 2015 Circles of Diversity Initiative – for providing leadership in promoting a successful program that fosters healthy racial and cultural relations.
  - BAPS Shri Swaminarayan Mandir Temple
  - First Baptist Church of Hampton
  - Hampton Baptist Church
  - Mosque and Islamic Center of Hampton Roads
  - Immaculate Conception Catholic Church

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