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NEWS RELEASE
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Take Stock in Children Escambia County Awards \$215,000 in Scholarships

Pensacola, FL: Take Stock in Children and the Escambia County Public Schools Foundation awarded \$215,000 in scholarships at the June 2 "Graduation & Unsung Hero Celebration" at Skopelos at New World. Sponsored by Sacred Heart Health System and Cox Communications, the event honored 17 graduating seniors who received 4-year tuition scholarships. In addition, each graduate received a laptop computer.

The 2016 Take Stock in Children graduates are: **Escambia High**: Ashleigh Bell, Shelby Butts, Austin Travis; **Northview High**: Ureil Codrington, Amber Freeman, Carly Ward; **Pensacola High**: Destinee Brundidge, Savion Henderson, Jazmin Womack; **Pine Forest High**: Tara Vanderburg; **Tate High**: Brianna Holmquist, Alicia Presswood; **Washington High**: Alyssa Barnes, Courtney Greene, Donald Vaughan; **West Florida High**: Nikita Babkin, Mariah McMullen

Take Stock in Children was established in 1995 as a non-profit organization in Florida that provides a unique opportunity for deserving low-income students to escape the cycle of poverty through education. Students receive college scholarships, caring volunteer mentors, and hope for a better life. Students are selected through a need-based application process in middle school and comprehensive services continue through high school and include the students' transition into college. Scholarships are funded through a unique public-private fundraising model in which local scholarship donations are matched by the Florida Prepaid College Foundation when scholarships are purchased each year. Each student is matched with a volunteer mentor who meets with the student weekly at school.

For more information about the Take Stock in Children program in Escambia County, contact Sally Lee, 469-5458, slee@escambia.k12.fl.us



Photo information: 2016 Escambia County Take Stock in Children Graduates

Left to Right:

Front Row: Carly Ward, Courtney Greene, Nikita Babkin, Savion Henderson, Ureil Codrington, Destinee Brundidge, Jazmin Womack, Shelby Butts

Back Row: Donald Vaughan, Alyssa Barnes, Ashleigh Bell, Austin Travis, Tara Vanderburg, Mariah McMullen, Alicia Presswood, Amber Freeman.