



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Kevin Thomas

## Black History Month Celebration Honors Community Leaders

KEVIN THOMAS February 11, 2022

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(Hempstead, NY) — New York State Senator Kevin Thomas Thursday hosted the 4th Annual Black History Month Celebration & Award Ceremony to recognize the work of six community leaders who have made a positive difference on Long Island. The virtual celebration featured performances from the Uniondale High School Show Choir and young scholars from the PEACE Afterschool Program, Inc. The event also featured an appearance from New York State Lt. Governor Brian A. Benjamin, who gave an impassioned speech about the importance of Black History Month.

*Young scholars from the PEACE Afterschool Program performing in honor of Black History Month.*

“Each February, Black History Month serves as both a celebration and a powerful reminder that Black history is American history, Black culture is American culture, and Black stories are essential to the ongoing story of America,” said Senator Kevin Thomas, who represents the community of Hempstead in the New York State Senate. “Tonight, we are here to recognize leaders, mentors, and educators who have embodied some of the highest ideals of dedication and achievement.”

*Olga-Brown Young is honored for her dedication and service to the Hempstead School District.*

Long-time Hempstead public servants Olga Brown-Young and LaMont E. Johnson were honored for their tireless dedication and contributions to the Hempstead Union Free School District. Village Mayor Waylon Hobbs, Jr. was recognized for his work to advance the social, educational, economic, and community development of the Village of Hempstead. Community leader Phil Andrews, who serves as the current President of the Long Island African American Chamber of Commerce, was honored for creating educational opportunities, promoting economic empowerment, and working to address health disparities

across underserved communities on Long Island.

A recording of the virtual celebration can be viewed at [facebook.com/SenatorKevinThomas](https://facebook.com/SenatorKevinThomas).