



19<sup>th</sup> Annual

# Celebration of Excellence & Achievement

for Students of African Descent

**Friday, May 10, 2024**

**6:30 - 8:30 pm**

**Center of Praise Ministries**

2223 Capitol Avenue, Sacramento, CA 95816



**WISDOM KNOT**

Symbol of  
Wisdom,  
Ingenuity,  
Intelligence and  
Patience



**LOS RIOS  
COMMUNITY  
COLLEGE DISTRICT**



# ARC ~ CRC ~ FLC ~ SCC

## Celebration of Excellence & Achievement for Students of African Descent

Call to Order .....Aba Gerri Scott  
Introduction of Elders .....Aba Gerri Scott

### Procession

Invocation..... Center of Praise Ministries  
Pouring of Libation ..... ibrahim Bàbátúndé Anóba  
Lift Ev'ry Voice and Sing ..... Psalm Sisters  
Greeting & Explanation of Celebration .....Aba Gerri Scott  
& Kofi Ken Times  
Recognition of Guests & Donors.....Abena Nicole Porter  
Introduction of Student Speakers .....Akua Ryana Fisher  
Student Speakers.....ARC – Monica Borders  
CRC – Ambroshia Dunn  
FLC – Tonya Ray  
SCC – Shana Hunter  
Recognition of Scholarship Recipients..... Efua Debra Crumpton  
Drummers & Dancers ..... Fenix Drum and Dance Company

### ~ Our Virtual Honorees ~

#### ~ Transition Ritual ~ Conferring of Kente Strips and Stool Ceremony ~

Musical Selection ..... Psalm Sisters  
Closing Remarks..... Kofi Ken Times

### ~ Recessional ~

# Explanation of Rituals and Symbols

## Call to Order

Drumming will be used as an instrument to communicate that the Ceremony is about to begin. It also sends a signal to all participants (honorees and guests) the transitional moment of focusing our collective attention and energy on the event about to take place. Through these deeds, we create a sacred space to express our greatest intentions so that what we do can be for the greatest good.

## Permission from Elders/Eldership

In many African societies, 'Elders' are the custodians of the village, community or land. Because of this caretaking and oversight role, it is appropriate that we ask their blessings for any event, activity or plans involving that community/village. This is also done as a sign of respect, and in recognition of the experience and knowledge of the elders of our community.

## Okyeame

"Okyeame" is an Akan word which represents a spokesperson, ambassador, and interpreter to a village (community) elder or chief.

## Pouring of Libation

The African tradition of pouring Libation at all important social gatherings is another way to communicate with God and to honor and remember our ancestors. Libation recognizes those members of our family and larger community that lived in the past and laid the foundation for those of us still living.

## Transition Ritual

We are gathered here to honor our students and symbolically mark their transition in the educational arena. This transition ceremony is also a way to communicate those values, intentions and behaviors important to the continued facilitation of growth and development toward fulfillment of future goals. The conferring of kente cloth strips and the Stool Ceremony will serve as the symbols in this Transition Ritual.

### • Kente Cloth

The Kente cloth originates from the Asante Kingdom of Ghana. Kente is an Asante ceremonial cloth that comes in various colors, sizes, and design and are worn during very important social and religious occasions. In a cultural context, kente is more important than just a cloth. It is a visual representation of history, philosophy, ethics, oral literature, moral values, and social code of conduct, religious beliefs, political thought and aesthetic principles. Conferring the kente cloth symbolizes our historical and cultural tradition of continuing to strive for excellence and achievement. The Kente students receive is meant to remind them of their accomplishments and reinforce their responsibility to continue that which is good.

### • Stool Ceremony

According to tradition, the Golden Stool which is made of pure gold, flew out of the sky and landed on the lap of the first king of the Asante's, Nana Osei-Tutu. The nation prospered and flourished and became famous for gold and brass, and the famous brightly colored hand-woven 'kente' cloth which is widely recognized as an African symbol. The Golden Stool is considered to be so sacred that no one is allowed to sit on it. It is kept under the strictest security and is taken outside only on exceptional occasions and never comes into contact with the ground. The Stool has become a symbol of the unifying force of the Asante people and it is believed to contain the soul or sunsum of the Asante nation. Replicas of the Golden Stool are hand carved out of wood and used in the enstoolment ceremonies of chiefs, kings, and queen mothers. The Asante Stools are also used in religious, transitional and/or rite of passage ceremonies.

# Honorees 2023-2024

## American River College

Yasmin Abdi  
Manar Alagi  
Rayan Ali  
Juawana Allen  
Rei-Na Allen- Stephens  
Gabriella Baker  
Joshua Baptiste  
Sokoya Baptiste  
Zachary Barkley  
Anyssa Barrow  
Khalia Bazile  
Sharonda Bentley  
Achim Berras  
Kreeana Block  
Demonde Boler  
Monica Borders  
Christina Bradford  
Deshaun Bradford  
Clarissa Brown  
Riley Brown  
Willacia Brown  
La Shonda Bruce  
Ezaiah Brumfield  
Angela Bryant  
Keion Bryant  
Evan Burgess  
Jaden Burgess  
Cameron Cager  
Nicolette Campbell  
Jordan Cantrell Frierson  
Brittany Chargualaf  
Thonye Charles  
Brandon Chattman  
Branden Chism  
Daezahanna Clemmons  
Zeenab Coker  
Katrina Collier  
La Shaunda Concepcion  
Jai-Elijah Cook  
Christina Copeland  
Naomi Crawford  
Keisha Crummie  
Trevon Cunningham  
Keona Dangerfield  
Akil Daniels

Karsten Daniels  
Jahmai Davis  
Lariah Davis  
Patrice Davis  
Terea Davis  
Lashea Dean  
Iliyah Demafeliz  
Kenya Denman  
Tymia Dennis  
Shawwnatta Dollson  
Jaliyah Dramera  
Jasmine Duncan  
Khalilah Duran  
Terence Dyer  
Paula Ede  
La Trice Ellis  
Joy Emojong  
Mickaela Estep  
Eriana Farrell  
Rodney Fitzhugh  
Jeanae Florence  
Lonnie Ford  
Damon Forde  
Ashley Fountain  
Danaka Fowler  
Morgan Fowlks  
Amir Francies  
Kisha Franciscous  
Madalaine Franklin  
Robert Freeman  
Latasha Funches  
Ayana Gaines  
Quincy Gallon  
Steven Gallow  
Ariana Ganaway  
Iyanna Garcia  
Stacey Gershon  
Devon Gibbs  
Patricia Gilbert  
Tiffany Gold  
Lathressa Golden  
Olivia Gomez  
Stevin Gomez  
Melanie Gorrell  
Courtney Graham-Smith  
Nicholas Graves

Alexander Green  
Mikel Guilford  
Abedulkerim Hamid  
Gloria Hancox  
Kamdyn Hardin  
Asha Harris  
Shemida Harrison  
Genesis Hayes  
Mornen Haymer  
Toure Hendrick  
Danielle Hendricks  
Jusiah Hermon  
Kaya Herring  
Jill Hill  
Michael Hill  
Raleigh Hill  
Lyle Hintz  
Catherine Holiday-Beck  
Wakeem Holland  
Alaric Holly  
Aaleeha Holmes  
Keyasha Hunt  
Tristan Hutchinson  
Ogechi Ibezim  
Stacie Irvin  
Hjalmar Isabelle  
Erin Jackson  
Savanna Jackson  
Christopher Johnson  
Clara Johnson  
Desiree Johnson  
Marvin Johnson  
Monica Johnson  
Sashay Johnson  
Shaquway Johnson  
Timothy Johnson  
Denise Jones  
Ladawna Jones  
Leila Jones  
Monique Jones  
McLean Jordan  
Frances Jordan-Massey  
Athena Joyner  
Tanesha Karavan  
Ammeal Kelly  
Kyasia Kelly-Lyon

# Honorees 2023-2024

Matthew Kendall  
Maurisa Kendricks  
Devante Kerr-Hall  
Jailen King Warren  
Omani Kirkendall  
Rafiki Kyubwa  
A'Shante Lacy  
Cachett Lacy  
Quiana Laron  
Jordyn Lee  
Darnyell Lewis  
Jaelene Lewis-Douglas  
Briana Lilly  
Dubem Lim-Molokwu  
Aisha Lindo  
Jacqueline Love  
Anthony Maldonado  
Tamai Mancuso  
Tyrone Marshall  
Deanna Martin  
Shannon Martin  
Sharnell Martin  
Bizuayehu Masresha  
Shamay Maxey  
Kemara McBride  
Tyra McFall  
Rayne McKenzie  
Roshelle McKinney  
Jasmine McLeod  
Aarion McNealy  
Anthony Metoyer  
Stephanie Mgbe  
Alivia Michaud  
Skyler Miles  
Victoria Miles  
Maryah Miller  
Tiffany Mitchell  
Jasmine Montgomery-Allen  
Angellyca Moore  
Kayla Moore  
Dominic Moreno  
Starr Nalls  
Trevor Ngugi  
Rudy Nguyen  
Dominique Norton-Smith  
Nicole Nugent

Evangeline Ogbu  
James Ogbu  
Ifeanyi Okebugwu  
Dan Onu  
Ulani Osby  
Bakang Otukile  
Amanda Palmore  
Vincent Payne  
Charlissa Perry  
Aamina Phineas  
Ari Pineda  
Karen Pitts  
Christina Polk  
Brittany Ponds  
Mia Price  
Demetrius Prigett  
Ashley Ramsey  
Omar Randle  
Noah Ranton  
Ajanquie Raven  
Christine Reed  
Isaiah Rheaume  
Jean Rhem  
Drew Richey  
Jada Ridgle  
Kacie Riley  
Edmond Roberts  
William Robey  
Dominique Robinson  
Miranda Robinson  
Philip Robinson  
Jalen Rodgers  
Tsegaye Roge  
Portia Rogers  
Andre Romain  
Jade Rosario  
Alexandria Ross  
Kristen Ross  
Dorothy Rushing  
Allanta Russell  
Jahzale Samuel  
Lanina Sanders  
Asia Sandifer  
Robert Schuermann  
Dante Schutz  
Dera Scott

Cassidy Sears  
Shemira Shabazz-Muhammad  
Kylie Sharp  
Joshua Shaw  
Ian Simpson  
Brazil Smith  
Brooklyn Smith  
Deja Smith  
Kimora Smith  
Rylan Smith  
Michael Speights  
Dominic Spence  
Tamija Stafford  
Shay'Lisa Stallworth  
Tresan Stallworth  
Christine Stanfield  
Jahmal Stanford  
Mikaiah Stephenson  
Samuel Stewart  
Asiarose Sumang  
Senait Syoum  
Ashley Tanner  
Willie Tatum  
Isaac Tekola  
Titus Templeton  
Marcia Thomas  
Tony Thomas  
Briannajoy Thompson  
Baxter Tilford  
Deja Toliver  
Bennie Traylor  
Tishanna Traylor  
Daniyah Turner  
Glee Ugoji  
Tavia Verwoest  
Claire Vincent  
Ariel Waithaka  
Maureen Wamugunda  
Daiquiri Ward  
Otis Ward  
Sinetta Washington  
Paula Watson  
Vince Wells  
Josiah West  
Maiah White  
Chanel Willhite

# Honorees 2023-2024

Jason Williams  
Ja'Shon Wright  
Judarien Wright  
Victoria Wright  
Loretta Young  
Tyrone Zanders

## **Cosumnes River College**

Reem Abdelkadir  
Bayden Abdullahi  
Abdulmalik Abdurahman  
Genevieve Abebe  
Darlene Alexis Baybayan Acosta  
Amal Adam  
Peace Agbonba  
Kartrina Alexander  
Sarah Alexander  
Nathaniel Allen III  
Marie Ayoung Amana  
Payton Baddley  
Vernetta Benjamin  
Kesha Bowden  
Destiny Brewer  
Maya Brewer-Shabazz  
Sharnette Brooks Davis  
Keith Brown  
Tesheya Byrd  
Tyson Caitano  
Devin Cannon  
Arthur Chiaji  
Chimaobi Chigbu  
Miles Churchill  
Chante Clark  
Jamel Cleaves  
Nicole Colbert  
Antonique Coleman  
Malika Colquitt  
Althea Cosby  
Chaniah Cousan  
Jolene Crawford-Young  
Jahnia Cribbs  
Ariana Cuffee  
Aminah Cunningham  
Teala Daniels-Cabral  
Bishop-Amer Davis  
Janae Derden

Jemirah Dillingham  
Naya Douglas  
Aniyah Dubose  
Ambrosia Dunn  
Cassandra Edwards  
Faith Eke  
Brooke Erkins  
Freemonia Fambro  
Reginald Fambro  
Catherine Farmbry  
Benjamin Ferreira-Pro  
Tohamed Fowler  
Carolyn Franklin  
Kenneth Fulton  
Nicole Fuqua  
Ashley Garner  
Yvonne Gasper  
Gabrelle Gorham  
Isaiah Griffin  
Jasmine Hamilton  
Alyssah Hampton  
Janara Hannan  
Amora Harding  
Edward Harris  
Kirby Harris  
Sarah Hasabumutima  
Timajhree Hayes King  
Ameina Hill  
Janet Hogan  
Ebonie Holden  
Jarred Holloway  
Tessa Holmes  
Khalil Howard  
Xyanayla Hubbard  
Timothy Hudson  
Yolonda Hudson  
James Hunter  
Ebelechukwu Ifyefobi  
Ivory Jackson  
Ronnie Jackson  
Blessing John  
Monica Jones  
Nikole Jones  
Yeabu Kamara  
Ashia Kennedy  
Jayla Kennedy

Nalani Kennedy  
Curtis Kimbrough  
Rachel King  
Rachelle Kwofie  
Adolph Lawrence  
Taj Lawrence  
Elisabeth Lemma  
Isabella Marlena Lew  
Ashley Lockhart  
Pamela Lomax  
Raven Love-McDaniels  
Yolanda Lucien  
Janae Mark  
Selayah Mazyck  
Omolara McBride  
Tanajia McClay  
Joy McCullough  
Adrian McIntosh  
Gregory McMahan  
Vernisha Medearis  
Nona Merchant  
Kaia Minor  
Kimani Mitchell  
Midori Leigh Miyasato  
Catherine Momoh-Pyne  
Arian Monroe  
Michelle Morris  
Trinity Mosley  
Brianna Muiruri  
Akima Murphy  
Joquin Murphy  
Ma'Journey Murphy  
Emanuel Murrell  
Marjila Nabil  
Rehemet Negus  
Michelle Njuguna  
Sherria Nunley  
Evangeline Ogbu  
Jordan Gabriel Orenstein-Turner  
Ehigie Osunde  
Emmanuel Ovoss  
Ashley Perkins  
Christopher Pilot  
Jada Polite  
Kassitty Presley Shelton  
Micaiah Reese

# Honorees 2023-2024

Ricora Ridout  
Brooke Robert  
Joseph Robinson  
Amirah Rode-McKissack  
Katelyn Rowles  
Lauren Kimbrell Sams  
Denise Sanders  
Ebony Scoggins  
Rugiatu Senesie  
Maya Shabazz  
Taofik Sholola  
Jocelyn Silva  
Jaden Simmons  
Sharlene Smith  
Michelle Spencer  
Michaela Daisy Stephens  
Kamila Stewart  
Brittany Stokes  
Yvonne Tate  
Ermiyas Tefera  
Khristian Thompson  
Jayason Townes  
Imari Trimble  
Sefina Tsegay  
Demarrya Tucker  
David Wade  
Matthew Walker  
Maryland Wambui  
Jazleen Washington  
Trevis Washington  
Carlita Waters  
Jeneses Watson  
Isaac Watson III  
Elisha Wesley  
Brea Williams  
Christina Williams  
D'Andre D. Williams  
Jailyn Donjane Williams  
Jarell Williams  
Shakira Williams  
Gladys Wolomboy  
Denise Mei Wong  
Zakeya Woods  
Darrah Wright  
Rebecca Yoseph  
Ansar Your

## Folsom Lake College

Naguib Abdulla  
Urshala Bains  
Zayne Beckman  
Alexa Berry  
Rachel Butler  
McKenna Cader  
Marcus Caldwell  
Isabella Caston  
Catherine Cochrane  
Raymond Coleman)  
Aj (Alan) Davis  
Desirae Denton  
Jaylen DeWitt  
Kiana Ferguson  
Angela Galbraith (Byrum)  
Allyson Garrison  
Corrie Harrison  
Demarco Hodge  
Thomas Hummer  
Te'And Indalecio  
Mason Jones  
Chloe King  
Angelina LaVancha  
Lisa Legrone  
Devin McDonald  
Udoka Ohanele  
Michael Owens  
Anfernee Phillips  
Kayla Price  
Tonya Ray  
Lakisha Robertson  
Kobe Rolling  
Anthony Rollins  
Serena Rutz  
Omar-FarouSamu  
Imani Waweru  
Amy West  
Trevell Wilson  
Tobias Winn  
Alexis Woodfy

## Sacramento City College

Abdulmalik Abdulrahman  
Arianna Adams  
Kevin Adams  
Trenisha Albro  
Janeve Allen  
Aubyrn Alston  
Jasmine Anderson  
Jayna Anderson  
Alyssa Antilla  
Andrew Bailey  
Solomon Bannerman  
Daijeni Barker  
Keiana Bhade  
Elijah Blair  
Bi Bli  
Lashanna Bouttie  
Kierra Bowens  
Zhane Bowens  
Darianna Brazell  
Destiny Brewer  
Tyler Briggs  
A'shiah Brooks  
Angel Brown  
Camesha Brown  
Candice Jacquaela Brown  
Taylor Buechler  
Charnee Burgin  
Terrell Burr  
Keveena Byrd  
Artimis Carter  
Gwendolyn Casey-Green  
Harold Castle  
Laneesha Ceaser  
Lusungu Chirwa  
Dionna Chism  
Stephanie Church  
Justin Cooke  
Aaliyah Cooper  
Christina Cooper  
Dujon Currington  
Mykai Daniel  
Anna David  
Kiana Davis  
Kedest Debele  
Victor Dora

# Honorees 2023-2024

Tenia Ellis  
Christeen Atra-Marie Flemons  
Reebie Flowers  
Jessica Gaines  
Naya Garmatz  
Abdurrahman Garner  
Quiana George  
Kimberly Glaster  
Candice Glover  
Elijah Goldstein  
Sherise Graham  
Maya Grandison  
Sarah Graves  
Loreal Greggs  
Raven Hale  
Robert Harris II  
Tiffany Hicks  
Alina Higgins-Grier  
Marques Hirakawa  
Sharon Hobson  
Charla Holmes  
Shefinne Houghton  
Tasha Rene Howard  
Marquis Hunter  
Shana Hunter  
Shana Danielle Hunter  
Jamauri Jackson  
Setota Jacob  
Aniya Jefferson  
Shateria Jenkins  
Venice A. Jenkins  
Branden Jennings  
Jazlynn Jinnies  
Anita-Simone Johnson  
Timothy Johnson  
Dakoda Jones  
Elon Jones  
Geoffrey Jones  
Rashaad Jordan  
Kandis Kaltenbach  
Elsina Kilpartrick  
Kyandrene King  
Marquis Knox  
Lenee Lagarde  
Ronisha Lawson

Michael Lawson Jr  
Makayla Lee  
Kelven Leverett  
Darnyell Lewis  
Na'jay Lewis  
Monet Lintz-Bryant  
Destiny Locke  
Ecstasy Locke  
Sanaï Logan  
Amber Martin  
Sharnell Martin  
Gabriela Mathis  
Kendall Matthews  
Taylor Lynn McClure  
Zuleika Mcknight-Brown  
Jonathan Mcknight-King  
Deandre Medlock  
Nicole Melvin  
Stephanie Louise Miller  
Ulani Miller  
Kaejon Moore  
Intrigue Moron  
Christian Newman  
Valdy Ngassam  
Sherira Nunley  
Akinjide Oboh  
Lindsey Olagundoye  
Nae'Iani O'neal  
Sheenya Orviss  
Cynthia Parker  
Veronica Parker  
Bridgett Perkins  
Isaac Petros  
Jabarii Pharms  
Savanna Quarles  
Fantasia Ray  
Daine Reynolds-Baillergeau  
Ankoma Riddick  
Ernestine Roberts  
Curtis Ross  
Teyanna Rowe  
Courtney Schwartz  
Kameesha Scott  
Cody Senegal  
Markeyetta Sherman

Nakedra Monae Simmons  
Jermaine Smith  
Christopher Stewart  
Lenore Stidum  
Lorenzo Swain  
Fekirte Tadesse  
Autumn Taylor  
Genesis Taylor  
Jamar Thomas  
My'Chelle Thomas  
Olivia Thomas  
Adrienne Trim  
Christina Nicole Turner  
Claire Vincent  
Tylique Watkins  
Dave Watts  
April Weldon  
Keyana White  
Malika Whitworth  
Malika Wilkins  
Charlaysja Williams  
Daryn Williams  
Domanika Williams  
Erik Williams  
Jonicia Williams  
Kahlil Williams  
Kendrick Williams  
Nayana Williams  
Otha Williams  
Wanda Williams  
Genveleve Williams Fain  
Shalom Worku  
De Vaughn Zachary Laconda  
Watkins  
Jasmine Watson  
Trinity Watson  
Martavious Webb  
Linda Westbrook  
Alison Williams  
Charlaysja Williams  
Christopher Williams  
Domanika Williams  
Ladonna Williams  
Shalom Worku  
Abdulsalam Yusuf



## **2024 Council of Elders**

Debra Crumpton  
Carl Davis  
Pamela Haynes  
Keith Heningburg  
Gerry O. Simpson  
Kakwasi Somadhi

## **Celebration of Excellence & Achievement for Students of African Descent 2024 Planning Committee**

### **~ARC~**

Nimo Ali  
Marianne Harris  
Tanisha Jenkins  
Judy Mays (Emeritus)  
Tera Reynolds

### **~CRC~**

Teresa Aldredge  
Ryana Fisher  
Winnie LaNier (Emeritus)  
Denise Marshall-Mills (Emeritus)  
Trinity Wilson

### **~FLC~**

Anastacia Dobson  
Tony Humphreys  
Lishia Rahman

### **~SCC~**

Kia Davis  
Lisa Hayden  
Toni Newman  
Makeba Rangel  
Gerri Scott (Emeritus)

# **Special Acknowledgements**

## **Donation**

Umoja SBA at Sacramento City College

**This event would not be possible  
without the generous support  
of each Los Rios college and the following  
departments or groups:**

American River College  
Cosumnes River College  
Folsom Lake College  
Sacramento City College

ARC Graphics Department  
SCC Reprographics Department  
SCC Office of the Vice President of Student Services

Los Rios Black Faculty and Staff Association

Los Rios Staff and Student Volunteers  
Umoja Sakhu Learning Community (ARC)  
Umoja Diop Scholars (CRC)  
Umoja SBA (SCC)



## Lift Ev'ry Voice and Sing ~ James Weldon-Johnson

Lift ev'ry voice and sing,  
'Til earth and heaven ring,  
Ring with the harmonies of Liberty;  
Let our rejoicing rise  
High as the list'ning skies,  
Let it resound loud as the rolling sea.  
Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us,  
Sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us;  
Facing the rising sun of our new day begun,  
Let us march on 'til victory is won.

Stony the road we trod,  
Bitter the chastening rod,  
Felt in the days when hope unborn had died;  
Yet with a steady beat,  
Have not our weary feet  
Come to the place for which our fathers sighed?  
We have come over a way that with tears has been watered,  
We have come, treading our path through the blood of the  
Slaughtered,  
Out from the gloomy past,  
'Til now we stand at last  
Where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.

God of our weary years,  
God of our silent tears,  
Thou who has brought us thus far on the way;  
Thou who has by Thy might  
Led us into the light,  
Keep us forever in the path, we pray.  
Lest our feet stay from the places, our God, where we met Thee,  
Lest, our hearts drunk with the wine of the world, we forget Thee;  
Shadowed beneath Thy hand,  
May we forever stand,  
True to our God,  
True to our native land.

