

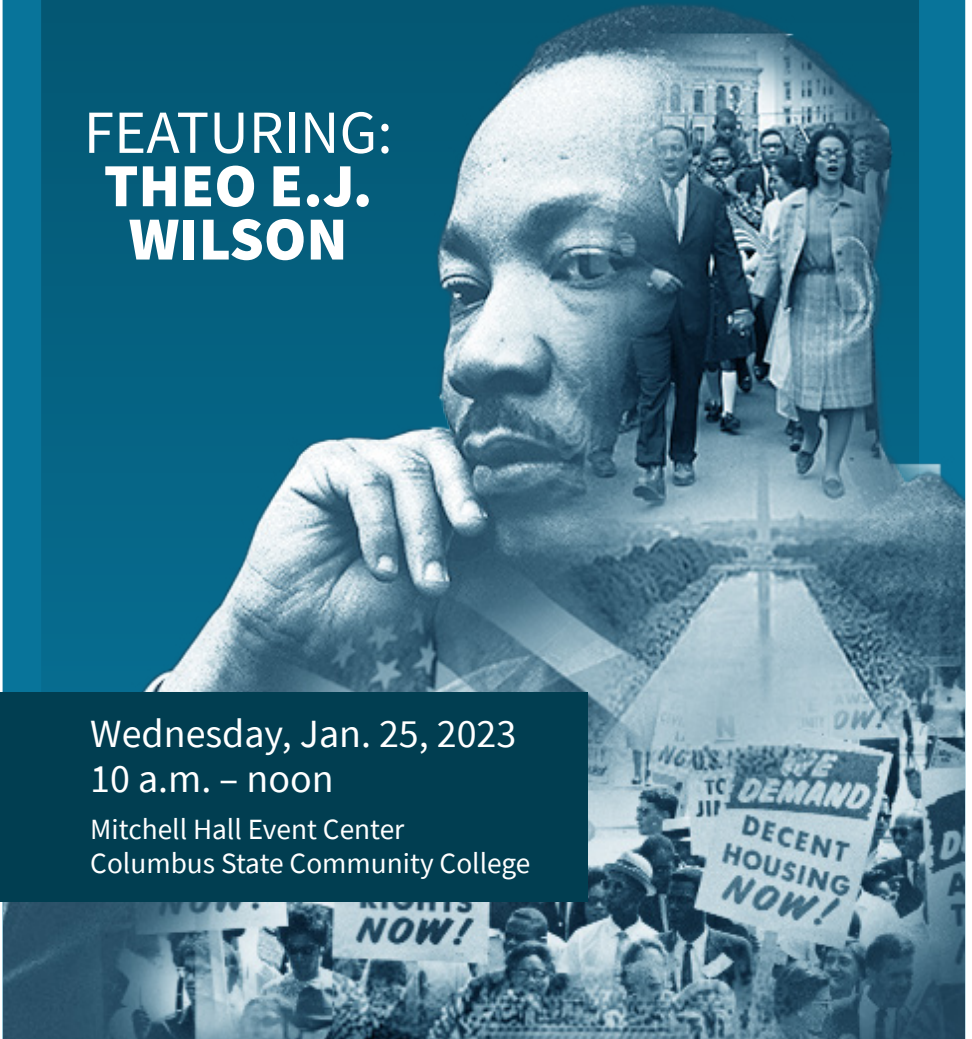
# Upward Together: Our Destinies Are Tied Together

THE 33RD ANNUAL DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. CELEBRATION

FEATURING:  
**THEO E.J.  
WILSON**

Wednesday, Jan. 25, 2023  
10 a.m. – noon

Mitchell Hall Event Center  
Columbus State Community College





Featured speaker:  
**Theo E.J. Wilson**

Theo E.J. Wilson is a poet and passionate social justice activist who gained notoriety for his online infiltration of white supremacist groups, earning him the title of “The New Black Klansman.” Wilson is a founding member of the Denver Slam Nuba team, a group that won the National Poetry Slam in 2011. At 15, he began his speaking career with the NAACP and went on to earn his bachelor’s degree in theater performance from Florida A&M University. Upon graduating, Wilson interned as a full-time actor at the St. Louis Black Repertory Company.

Wilson is the executive director of Shop Talk Live, Inc. which uses the barbershop as a staging ground for community dialogue and healing. In 2013, Wilson began speaking with “Rachel’s Challenge,” an organization dedicated to ending school violence through compassion. After his viral video success in 2015, he published his first book , “The Law of Action,” in 2017. The book addresses some of the misconceptions about the law of attraction and the role direct action plays into manifestation.

# Program

## Opening Remarks

Alexandra Bradley, Assistant Director, Admissions

## Musical Selections

Columbus State Gospel Vocal Ensemble

## Welcome

David T. Harrison, Ph.D., President

## Award Presentation

### George Floyd Memorial Scholarship

Alexandra Bradley, Assistant Director, Admissions

### Employee Visionary Dreamer Award

Royce Carpenter, Ed.D., 2021 Employee Recipient

### Tribute to Darius Torrence

Susan Goeschl, Program Coordinator, Student Engagement and Inclusion

### Student Visionary Dreamer Award

Le'Ken Stokes, 2021 Student Recipient

## Introduction of Speaker

Alexandra Bradley

## Keynote Address

Theo E.J. Wilson

## Community Engagement

Audience

## Call to Action

Primrose Ignor, Director, Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

## Poetic Selection

Meaca Moore, Poet & former Columbus State student



Spoken word by:  
**Meaca Moore**

Meaca Moore is a writer, public speaker, musical artist, host, and freelance instructor. Spoken word is Moore's first love. She has been writing poetry as a means of survival since the age of 12 and she's been performing since age 15. Following high school, she was recruited as an artist for the University of Wisconsin-Madison under the First Wave program. The First Wave program is an innovative urban arts full-tuition scholarship community (the only one of its kind). Moore has been privileged to travel the country sharing her poetry and various written works. She has participated in various poetry slams, including the Rustbelt Regional Slam where she placed first in individuals. The focus of her work is hope, mercy, and self-reflection in a world that often lacks all three.



Song selections by:

## Columbus State Gospel Vocal Ensemble

The Columbus State Gospel Vocal Ensemble, also known as GVE, under the direction of Dr. Emma L. Easton, has appeared in numerous traditional and non-traditional venues within the Ohio area since 2006. The group has opened for such notables as social rights advocate and comedian, the late Dick Gregory; media mogul Cathy Hughes; and actor Danny Glover, to name a few. GVE has also shared the stage with Deanna Martin, daughter of the legendary entertainer Dean Martin, Stellar Award winner Shekinah Glory, and other national gospel recording artists.

GVE made history at Columbus State in 2007 by releasing “The Hope Project,” the very first gospel CD ever produced at the College. The recording was a collaborative project between Columbus State’s audio production students and GVE. Since then, the ensemble has added four audio releases and three music videos to its discography. The audio projects are available in the college bookstore. GVE’s latest music video, “Worthy,” was penned by its director and released in 2021.





In memoriam

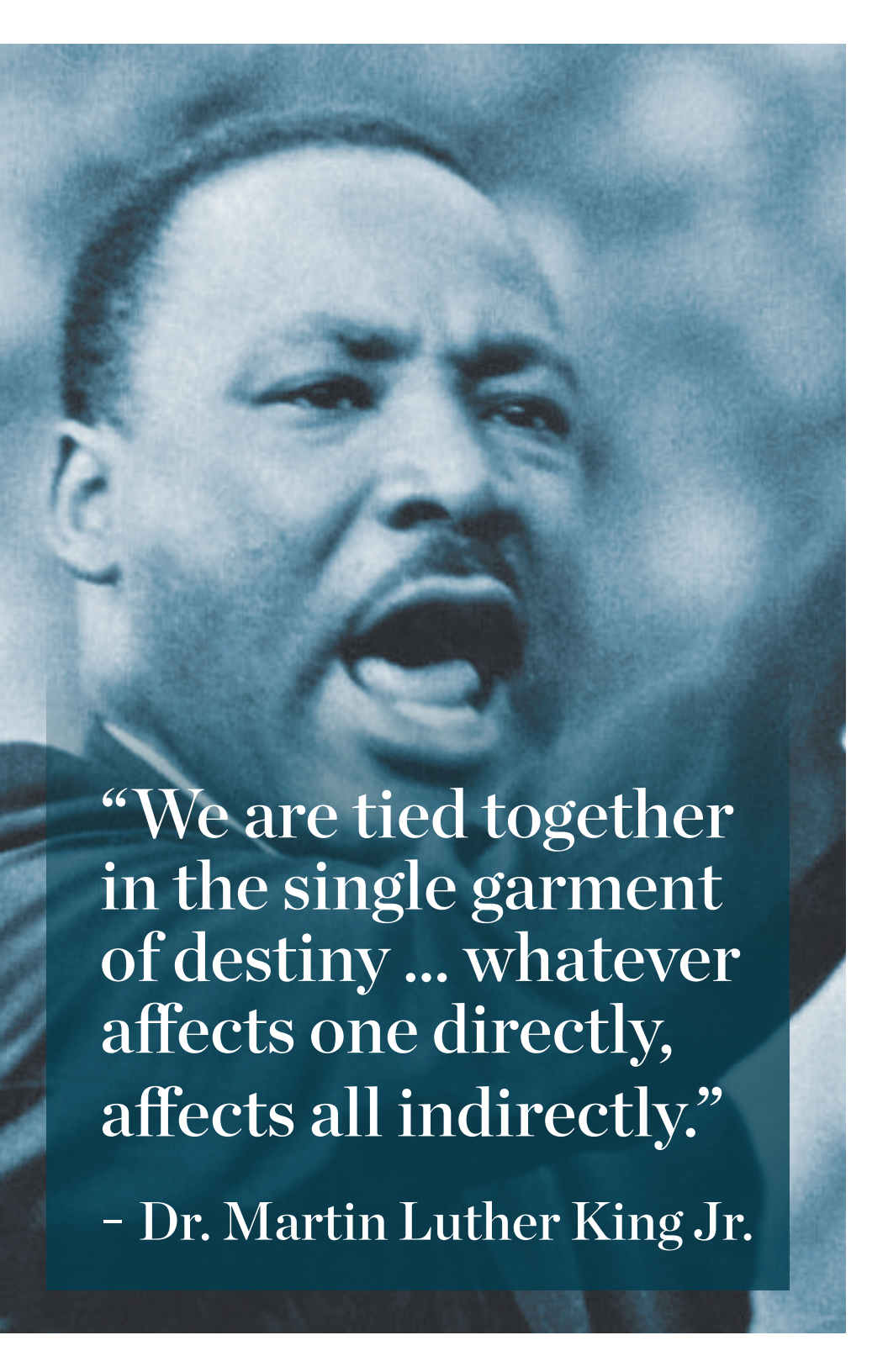
## Darius Anthony Torrence

Darius Torrence was recognized for his leadership as an ambassador, peer facilitator with Make.Think.Live, and for his courage and commitment to change the narrative from restored citizen to Realtor. He was also the first recipient of Columbus State Community College's Visionary Dreamer Award, which honors students and employees who make lasting contributions to honoring diversity in their environment.

As a student, Darius's involvement was felt throughout the campus. He was a student representative for the 2019-2020 Columbus State Infrastructure Strategic Planning Steering Committee, trained for community engagement and leadership development through Columbus State's Student Ambassador and Leadership Program, and was a 2020 recipient of the Changing the Narrative Scholarship.

When he graduated from Columbus State in December 2020, Darius became a full-time real estate agent who specialized in guiding first-time home buyers and investors through the process of buying and selling. He was passionate about investing in real estate and creating a safer environment for youth.

Darius was a valued member of our community, and he will be greatly missed. We are proud to say his impact will stay with Columbus State for years to come.



“We are tied together  
in the single garment  
of destiny ... whatever  
affects one directly,  
affects all indirectly.”

- Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.



Capture your experiences using the hashtag  
**#CSCCMLK23**

### **MLK Planning Committee**

Alexandra Bradley  
Dr. Terrence Brooks  
Dr. Royce Carpenter  
Dr. Crystal Clark  
Sharon Dixson  
Hannah Groah

Greg Hetterscheidt  
Grace Howard  
Patricia Huston  
Primrose Igonor  
Melissa Lamar  
Greg Phillips

Liz Rose-Cohen  
Tracy Sowards  
Kyle Strohecker  
Brett Welsh

### **Sponsors**

- The Title III Strengthening Institutions Grant
- The Office of Diversity, Equity & Inclusion
- The Office of Student Engagement & Inclusion
- Student Life