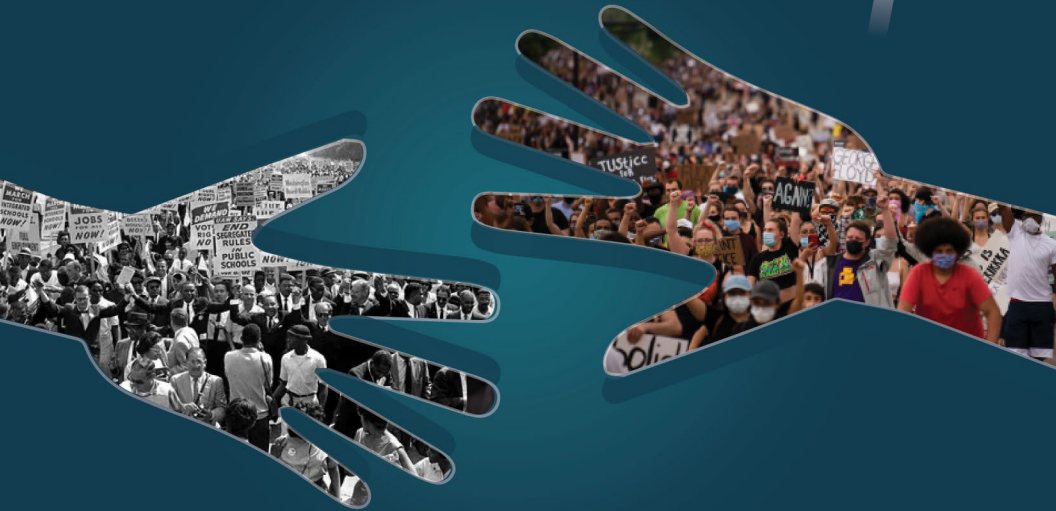


# GENERATION TO GENERATION

COLUMBUS STATE'S 35TH ANNUAL  
DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. CELEBRATION



Wednesday, February 12, 2025  
10 a.m. - Noon

Center for Workforce Development - 4th Floor Ballroom  
315 Cleveland Avenue, Columbus, OH



Featured speaker:

## ***REUEL BARKSDALE***

Professor, Business and Paralegal Program  
Columbus State Community College

Reuel Barksdale is an award-winning tenured professor in the Business Programs Department at Columbus State as well as an accomplished public speaker and author of the novel, “Lessons Beneath the Mask, From Pain to Promise.” As a motivational speaker, Barksdale addresses audiences across the country on the topics of change management, diversity, management, strategic planning, conflict resolution, leadership, and employee development. Professor Barksdale has received the Distinguished Teacher Award at Columbus State and has been listed as “A Teacher of Excellence” by Ohio Magazine.

# **PROGRAM**

## **Musical Performance**

Saxophonist - Terrance Charles

## **Welcome**

Vincent Hill, Assistant Director, Student Engagement and Belonging

## **Opening Remarks**

Dr. David T. Harrison, President, Columbus State Community College

## **George Floyd Scholarship Award Presentation**

Michelle Baker, Program Coordinator, Advising and Career Services  
Wehs Juty, Specialist, Student Engagement and Belonging

## **Musical Performance**

Saxophonist - Terrance Charles

## **The Barbara Smith-Allen Visionary Dreamer Award Presentation**

Terrence Lawrence, Director, Weiler Scholars

## **The Darius Torrence Visionary Dreamer Award Presentation**

Kelly Edmondson, Darius Torrence's mother

## **Napoleon Bell Sr. Award & Scholarship Presentation**

Mr. Bell's family

## **Introduction of Keynote Speaker**

Funmike Okeyinka, Student Leader

## **Keynote Address**

Professor Reuel Barksdale, Professor, Business and Paralegal Program,  
Columbus State Community College

## **Special Presentation to Keynote Speaker**

April Drye, Student Leader  
Bawi Thawng, Student Leader

## **Musical Performance – “Lift Every Voice and Sing”**

Tracy Thornton, Specialist, Purchasing and Accounts Payable

## **Call to Action**

Almar Walter, Vice President, Chief Diversity Officer



Saxophone selection by:

## **TERRANCE CHARLES**

Terrance Charles is a saxophone player and vocalist who has become known for his soulful creative contributions to the music scene in Columbus and nationally. For over 10 years, Terrance has shared the stage as reedman with local touring acts including The Floorwalkers, Doc Robinson, MojoFlo, George Barrie Band, and Parker Louis, as well as nationally recognized artists O.A.R., The Wonderfool, Wax Jackets, and Sumbuck.

Recently, he has stepped up from his sideman role to perform regularly as a DJ Artist in conjunction with his saxophone offerings, sharing carefully curated selections that have inspired his passion for music.

“Lift Every Voice and Sing” performed by:

## **TRACY THORNTON**

Tracy Thornton is an alumna of both the Business Management and Social Work and Human Services degree programs at Columbus State Community College. She has been on staff with the college for 11 years as a specialist in Purchasing and Accounts Payable. In the community, she serves as an Executive Pastor, entrepreneur, and Certified Professional Master Life Coach.

# *SCHOLARSHIPS AND AWARDS*

## **Student and Employee Visionary Dreamer Awards**

Every year in celebration of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., the college honors one staff member and one student for their leadership and commitment to creating a diverse campus culture. Originally called The Visionary Dreamer Award, the honor was renamed in recent years to reflect two members of our community who exemplified the important work of Dr. King, Barbara Smith-Allen and Darius Torrence.

Awardees make a significant and lasting contribution in creating an environment where diversity is honored and respected on campus and within the broader community.

## **George Floyd Memorial Scholarship**

This scholarship, created in memory of George Floyd, is a merit-based award given to students who demonstrate leadership, social justice work, and activism that furthers progress in their community.

## **2025 Napoleon Bell Sr. Award**

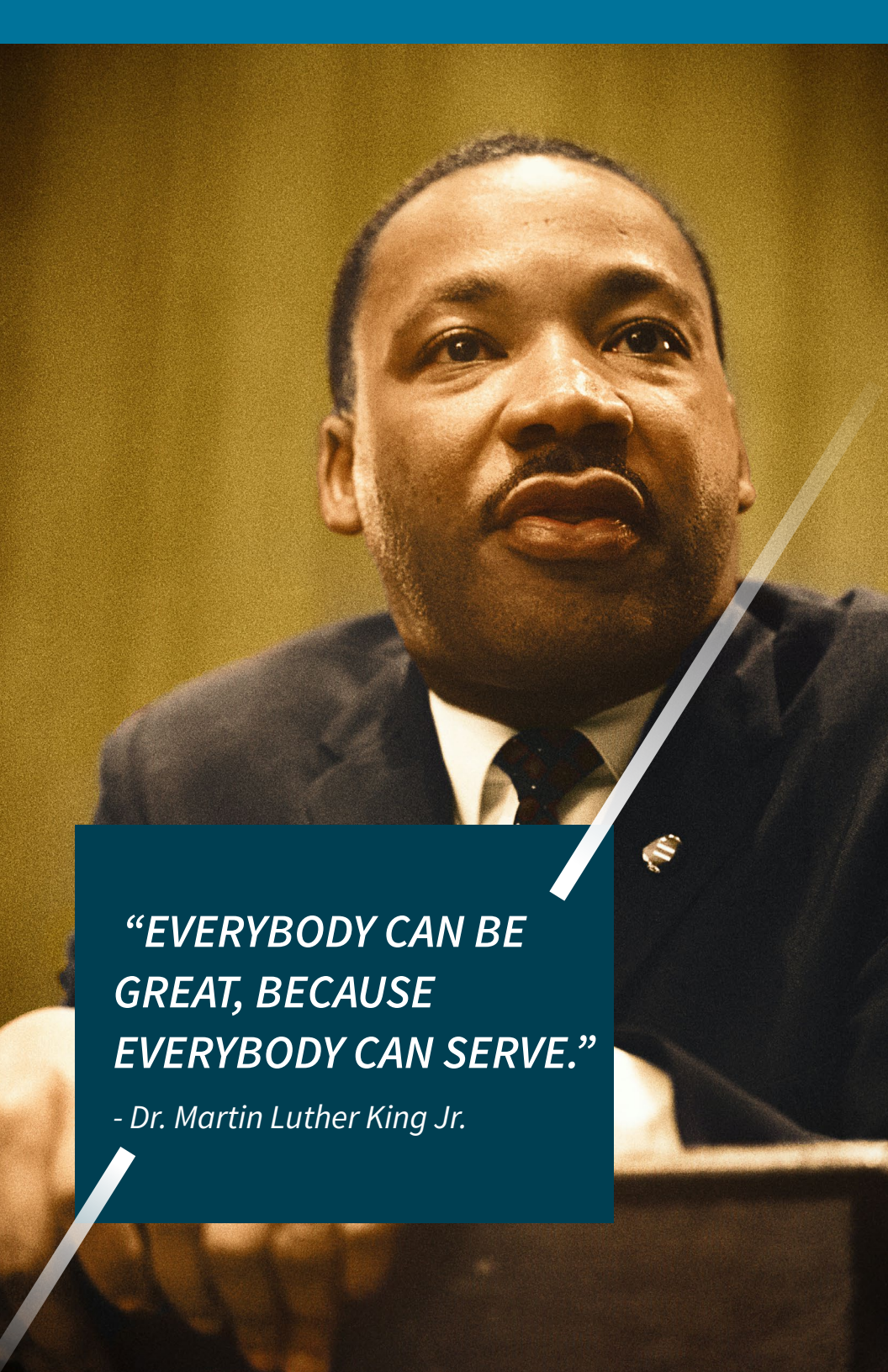
This award is presented annually to one Columbus State employee and one Columbus State student who demonstrate ambition, persistence, integrity, service, and support of Columbus State values – qualities embodied by the award's namesake.

The Bell Award was created in honor of Napoleon Arthur Bell Sr., a prestigious attorney, and a giving community leader, who also served as Chairman of the Board at Columbus State from 1992-1994 and was a Trustee for many years.

The Black National Anthem  
***LIFT EVERY VOICE AND SING***

Written and composed by  
James Weldon Johnson and John Rosamond Johnson

Lift every 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.



***“EVERYBODY CAN BE  
GREAT, BECAUSE  
EVERYBODY CAN SERVE.”***

*- Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.*



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

### **MLK Planning Committee**

Barbara Allen  
Reuel Barksdale  
Lori Billenstein  
Alexandra Bradley  
Jolene Broshious  
David Cofer  
Nia Coffey  
Dr. Crystal Clark  
Dana Cummings  
Hope Cyuzuzo

Marja Davis  
Timothy Davis  
Sharon Dixson  
April Drye  
Hannah Groah  
Gregory Hetterscheidt  
Vincent Hill  
Patricia Huston  
Abdi Jama  
Lauren Jones

Ben Kalb  
Melissa Lamar  
Vanessa Langhurst  
Melina Ley  
Robyn Lyons-Robinson  
Shoaib Mezher  
Dr. Andrew Moss  
Oluwafunmike Okeyinka  
Greg Phillips  
Bawi Thawng



[csc.edu/mlk](https://csc.edu/mlk)