

Scholastic Honors Convocation

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Friday
April 26, 2024
4:00 p.m.
Cunningham Conference Center

Scholastic Honors Convocation 2024

Welcome

Dr. Jonathan Meyers; 2023-2024 Educator of the Year
Dr. Pat McHenry; Interim Provost, Columbus State University
Jordan Allen; President, Student Government Association

Announcement of Tower Day Award Winners

Dr. Kerri Taylor; Tower Day Coordinator

College of the Arts Awards

Department of Art

B.A. Studio Art Award.....Shantae Jarrell
B.F.A. Studio Art Award.....Shulin Zheng
Art History Award.....Sarah Elizabeth Carden
Art Education Undergraduate Award.....Greysen Strumpler
Art Education Graduate Award.....Kayla Marie "Fern" Whitmire
Student of Excellence Award.....Campbell Eubanks

Presented by Professor & Interim Chair Nick Norwood

Department of Communication

Communication Student of the Year Award.....Mary Cawthorne
Student of Excellence Award.....Lars Smallwood

Presented by Professor & Chair Danna Gibson

Schwob School of Music

Senior Music Major Award.....Jordan "Jordi" Banitt
Presser Scholar.....Jordan "Jordi" Banitt
Student of Excellence Award.....Jordan "Jordi" Banitt

Presented by Professor & Director Scott Harris

Department of Theatre & Dance

Theatre Arts Award.....D'Miya Richburg
Theatre Arts: Performance Award.....Taianan Grace
Theatre Arts: Design & Technical Award.....Jordan Nickolson
Theatre Arts: Education Award.....Jordan Kindermann
Student of Excellence Award.....Amanda Byars

Presented by Professor & Chair Larry Dooley

D. Abbott Turner College of Business & Technology

Department of Accounting & Finance

Accounting Award.....Jose Perez-Garcia
Finance Award.....Leo Giannoni
Student of Excellence Award.....Gardner Shearouse

Presented by Professor & Chair Gisung Moon

Department of Management & Marketing

Management Award.....Henry Boemer
General Business Award.....Lillian Patterson
Marketing Award.....Elizabeth Grant
Management Information Systems Award.....Heather Chason
Student of Excellence Award.....Lauren Katzfey

Presented by Professor & Chair John Finley

Graduate Business Program

Master of Business Administration Award.....	Danielle Navarrete
Master of Science in Organizational Leadership Award.....	Jason Duarte

TSYS School of Computer Science

B.S.in Computer Science: Software Systems Track Award.....	Nicholas Dunn
B.S.in Computer Science: Web Development Track Award.....	Maria Mills
B.S.in Computer Science: Games Programming Track Award.....	Nam Luu
B.S.in Information Technology Award.....	Gabriel Whatley
B.S.in Computer Science: Cybersecurity Track Award.....	Danielle Blake
B.S.in Computer Science: Enterprise Computing Track Award.....	Shreya Kola
M.S. in Applied Computer Science: A.I.& Machine Learning Track Award.....	Walker Smith
M.S. in Applied Computer Science: Software Development Track Award	Sri Satya Sau Dines Venigalla
M.S. in Applied Computer Science: Traditional Track Award.....	Delena Ferguson
M.S in Applied Computer Science: Cyber Defense Track Award.....	Justin Owens
M.S.in Cybersecurity Management Award.....	Chinh Dang
Student of Excellence Award.....	Daniel Shafer

Presented by Professor & Chair Rania Hodhod

College of Education and Health Professions

Department of Teacher Education, Leadership and Counseling

School Counseling Graduate Award.....	Imani Jackson
Clinical Mental Health Counseling Graduate Award.....	Patrick Haley
Educational Leadership Graduate Award.....	James "Rollie" Thomas
Educational Leadership – Higher Education Graduate Award.....	Stephanie Merchant
Doctor of Education – Educational Leadership Track Award.....	Tammi Clarke
Doctor of Education – Curriculum Track Award.....	Monica McDaniel
Doctor of Education – Higher Education Administration Award.....	Kendall Forde
Elementary Education Undergraduate Award.....	Makayla Robertson
Elementary Education Graduate Award.....	Amy Mills
Middle Grades Education Undergraduate Award.....	David Lassiter
Middle Grades Education Graduate Award.....	Cole Downey
English Education Undergraduate Award.....	Mackenzie Skeene
English Education Graduate Award.....	Madison Fuerte
Spanish Education Undergraduate Award.....	Jenny Santiago-Merced
Secondary Mathematics Education Graduate Award.....	Kunicko Byrd
UTeach Mathematics Education Undergraduate Award.....	Carolann Funkhouser
UTeach Science Education Undergraduate Award.....	Elva Lucero
Secondary Science Education Graduate Award.....	Erin E. Fowler
History Education Undergraduate Award.....	Wesley Parker
Social Science Education Graduate Award.....	Joseph Tuite
Special Education Undergraduate Award.....	Katelynn Hoskins
Special Education Graduate Award.....	Caroline Walker
Curriculum & Instruction in Accomplished Teaching Graduate Award.....	Cali Greiner
Teacher Leadership Graduate Award.....	Jaspreet Thiara
Student of Excellence Award.....	James "Rollie" Thomas

Presented by Professor & Chair Deniz Peker

Department of Kinesiology and Health Sciences

Student of Excellence Award - Undergraduate Health Science.....	Makenzie Sanders
Student of Excellence Award – Undergraduate Kinesiology.....	Lauren Barnes

Student of Excellence Award – Graduate Health & Physical Education..... Tynicia McCoy
Student of Excellence Award – Masters of Public Health.....LaTrice Johnson
Presented by Professor & Chair Clay Nicks

School of Nursing

Outstanding Nursing B.S.N. Award.....Megan King
Outstanding Nursing M.S.N. Award..... Jennifer Harmon
Outstanding Nursing R.N.-B.S.N. Award.....LaSheta Jones
Outstanding Nursing F.N.P. Award.....Yomarli Vargas
Student of Excellence Award.....Sidney McCafferty
Presented by Professor & Director Tamara Condrey

College of Letters and Sciences

Department of English

Literature Award.....John Pollock
Professional Writing Award.....Cynt Short
Creative Writing Award.....Maddie Ginter
Student of Excellence Award.....L'Anita Heiss
Presented by Professor & Chair Judith Livingston

Department of History, Geography, & Philosophy

Philosophy Award.....Tyler Sierra
Student of Excellence Award (History).....Bailey Melton
Student of Excellence Award (Geography).....David Lassiter
Presented by Professor & Chair Bryan Banks

Department of Society, Culture, & Languages

Outstanding Senior French Track Award.....Rebecca Hanel
Outstanding Senior Teacher Education Track Award.....Jenny Sanitago-Merced
Outstanding Literature & Culture Track Award.....Carolann Funkhouser
Student of Excellence Award (Modern Language & Culture)Caylee Lawhorne
Student of Excellence Award (Sociology).....Alisa Lipscomb
Presented by Professor & Chair Joelle Bonamy

Department of Policy, Justice, & Public Safety

Outstanding Political Science Major Award.....Michael Gallagher
Mario Mion Political Science Honors Scholarship Award.....Richard Salman
Master of Public Administration Award.....Hattie Greer
Student of Excellence Award.....Michael Gallagher
Student of Excellence Natural Sciences- Criminology Award..... Haley Kubicek
Presented by Professor & Chair Kimberly Gill

Department of Biology

Cellular & Molecular Biology Award.....Rakaiya Martin
Biology Education Award..... Jillian Holloway
George Stanton Biology Award.....Simran Chhina
Organismic Biology Award.....Josh Adams
Ecological & Evolutionary Biology Award.....Elva Lucero
Student of Excellence Award.....Sirman Chhina
Student of Excellence Natural Sciences- Teaching Award.....Gabriela Greene
Student of Excellence Natural Sciences- Teaching Award.....Kayleigh Cassella
Presented by Professor & Chair Monica Frazier

Department of Chemistry

Outstanding Freshman Chemistry Major Award.....Teriana Jackson
Excellence in Chemistry Research Award.....Maddison Montgomery
Student of Excellence Award.....Lance Crane

Presented by Professor & Chair Floyd Jackson

Department of Earth and Space Sciences

Geology Award.....Frank Spain
Astronomy Award.....Samuel Kimball
Physics Award.....Bianca Hampel
Environmental Science Award.....Kaela Mercer
Robotics Student Award.....Noah Gullekson
MSNS Geosciences Award.....Ivy Do
Student of Excellence Award.....Trinity Smith

Presented by Professor & Chair Troy Keller

Department of Mathematics

Outstanding Mathematics Student Award.....Felicity Acosta
Calculus Award..... Aaron Riley
Student of Excellence Award (Mathematics).....Jonathan Dispain
Student of Excellence Award (Data Science)..... Emily Turner
Student of Excellence Award (Applied Mathematics).....David Pifer

Presented by Professor & Chair Guihong Fan

Department of Psychology

Psychology Academic Achievement Award Phoebe Stephens
Psychology Undergraduate Research Award Kiersten Wengryn

Presented by Associate Professor & Interim Chair Jonathan Meyers

Honors College Awards

Interdisciplinary Studies Award..... Lilly Patterson
Scholarly Activities in Fine and Performing Arts Award.....Mary Clair Buchanan
Scholarly Activities in Humanities Award.....Bailey Melton
Scholarly Activities in Professional Studies Award.....Don'ya Truesdale
Scholarly Activities in Science Award.....Rakaiya Martin
Scholarly Activities in Social Science Award.....Ari Poveda

Presented by Professor & Dean Cindy Ticknor

Presentation of Honor Cords

**Presented by Professor & Dean Cindy Ticknor
and Dr. Pat McHenry**

Honors Societies Recognition

Recognition of Honors and Academic Societies

Honoris Causa
Phi Kappa Phi

- Members are asked to stand as each society is recognized.

University Awards

Academic Recognition Award..... Pat McHenry; Interim Provost and Executive Vice President

Educator of the Year Award.....Tyler Brown; Vice President, Student Government Association

Dr. Jonathan Meyers

Faculty Cup Award.....Dr. Pat McHenry; Interim Provost and Executive Vice President

Closing Remarks.....Dr. Jonathan Meyers

A reception follows this ceremony in the **Blanchard Ballroom A.**

2023-2024 Scholastic Honors Committee

Alicia Bryan
Hyeran Choi
Suzy Gunnels
Nick Norwood
Lisa Nixon
Cheryl Smith
Markus Weidler

Special Thanks for Your Contribution:

Synovus Bank
Columbus State University Student Government Association
Columbus State University Office of Student Affairs

Dr. Jonathan Meyers is an Associate Professor in the Department of Chemistry and is currently serving as an Interim Chair for the Department of Psychology. Dr. Meyers is also serving as the Assistant Dean of Strategic and Student Initiatives for the College of Letters and Sciences. He earned a B.S. in Chemistry with American Chemical Society Certification from the University of West Georgia and went on to complete a Ph.D. in Biological Chemistry at Indiana University.

Dr. Meyers joined Columbus State University in 2013 and has been the instructor for several courses, many focusing on Biochemistry or Principles of Chemistry. He has also co-authored many research articles and is a regular presenter at conferences related to his field of study, showing a dedication to research and teaching. Research in his lab aims to elucidate the underlying links between cancer and diabetes. Dr. Meyers received the Educator of the Year Award in 2023 and being a finalist again this year reaffirms his continued impact on students. He has also been named the Campus Advisor of the Year in 2018 by Student Life and Development. Dr. Meyers is a dedicated faculty member and supports the success of students inside and outside of the classroom.

Dr. Kerri Taylor is an Associate Professor in the Department of Chemistry. Dr. Taylor earned a B.A. in Chemistry from Miami University, an M.S. in Science in Chemistry from The University of Kentucky, and a Ph.D. in Chemistry from the University of Akron.

Dr. Taylor joined Columbus State University in 2016 and has been the instructor for many courses in the Chemistry Department. These courses include Organic Chemistry and introductory courses in Chemistry. Dr. Taylor has a very extensive portfolio of research and conference presentations which shows a great dedication to her field of study and advancement of knowledge. Much of Dr. Taylor's research has a focus on breast and prostate cancer. Along with these research endeavors, Dr. Taylor has been awarded many grants to support research. One student shared this regarding Dr. Taylor, "It is hard to put into words Dr. Taylor's amount of dedication and love that she has for all of her students...she goes way above and beyond what any faculty member is requested to do and is constantly keeping in touch". This dedication to students and their success is at the core of Dr. Taylor's service and a great example of the impact she has on the lives of students at Columbus State University.

Dr. Mary Beth Hendricks is a professor in the Teacher Education Department. Dr. Hendricks earned her B.A. in Special Education from LaGrange College, an M.Ed. in Special Education from Columbus College, and an Ed.D. in Special Education Administration and Supervision from Virginia Polytechnic Institute.

Dr. Hendricks currently teaches courses in the Special Education Teacher Preparation Program. Prior to teaching at the college level, Dr. Hendricks spent several years as a public-school teacher working with children who had mild and moderate learning, intellectual, and behavior disabilities. Dr. Hendricks' current research focuses on improving literacy for children and adolescents. She has been presented internationally, nationally, at the regional, state, and local levels. Dr. Hendricks has provided experiential learning through partnerships with the local community and education. One student shared, "We were able to do more things involving students and actively reaching them rather than just writing papers and talking about things in class". This comment shows the impact Dr. Hendricks has on students by creating opportunities for experiences that combine learning with real world interactions.

Campbell Eubanks, an artist with a heart for both creativity and community. Campbell's dedication to art is evident not only in academics but also in involvement with the Columbus Artists Guild. As a Student Board Representative and leader of the "Dream Team," Campbell actively engages with fellow artists, fostering a supportive environment and encouraging young talents to join. Beyond the studio, Campbell generously shares their skills with the community, from demonstrating wheel-throwing techniques to elementary schoolers to volunteering at events like the CSU All-State and Throw-down. Campbell's passion and leadership make them a standout in the art world, earning consistent recognition as the most outstanding student in the department and a most exceptional Faculty Cup Award nominee.

Katelynn Hodgin is a Fall 2023 graduate, passionate about Special Education and Reading. During her time as a Resident Advisor (RA) in Resident Life, Katelynn embraced her role with warmth and dedication, offering support to her peers. Despite facing obstacles, she maintained an impressive GPA, a testament to her hard work and resilience. Katelynn's commitment to creating a supportive community shines through her work as an RA, making her a valued alumna in the Special Education-General Curriculum Reading Track.

Lizbeth Medrano is a passionate Biology major with a concentration in Biology and Secondary Education. With a string of academic achievements, including awards from Phi Kappa Phi and Beta Beta Beta, Lizbeth shines as a leader in her field. Her dedication extends beyond academics to coaching youth soccer, assisting low-income residents, and providing invaluable translation services. Recognized for her positive attitude and commitment to excellence, Lizbeth embodies the spirit of service and leadership, making her a deserving nominee for the Faculty Cup Award.

Bailey Melton, a History major with a Minor in Digital Humanities, embodies academic excellence and global engagement. As a Phi Alpha Theta History Honors society member and recipient of the prestigious Boren Fellowship, Bailey immersed herself in studies abroad, including in Jordan and at the University of Oxford. Her dedication extends beyond academics; she's an elected member of the Student Government Association, active in the History Club, and committed to community service in the Muscogee County Foster Community and her church. Bailey's remarkable journey from homeschooling to global scholar exemplifies resilience and achievement, earning her recognition as a nominee for CSU's Faculty Cup Award.

Thomas Merino is a dynamic leader in Software Systems and the current President of the Association for Computing Machinery (ACM). Beyond his stellar academic record, Thomas is celebrated for his innovative thinking and exceptional leadership skills. His consistent creativity and dedication bring fresh perspectives to both his studies and community endeavors. Thomas's passion for making a difference is evident through his impactful volunteer work, making him a truly outstanding candidate for CSU's Faculty Cup Award.

Austin Murray is a devoted musician majoring in Music Performance. With a wealth of achievements, including consistent recognition on the President's List since 2020 and serving as Vice President of the CSU Model UN, Austin showcases his leadership and community involvement. He generously volunteers his time with organizations like Habitat for Humanity and the Columbus Aquatic Club, where he coaches. Austin's diverse talents and dedication to service highlight his exceptional contributions in the field of Music Performance making him a standout Faculty Cup Award nominee.

Don'ya Truesdale, a devoted Nursing major, exemplifies the spirit of service and leadership. Recognized for her academic excellence, she's a recipient of prestigious scholarships like the Melanie Money Scholarship and the Christophil Scholarship. Actively engaged in the Honor's College, Student Nurses Association, and Future African American Healthcare Professional Society (FAAHPS), Don'ya demonstrates servant leadership in her community and organizations. Her volunteer work at local

hospitals reflects her passion for healthcare and serving others. Don'ya's dedication and contributions distinguish her as a notable nominee for the CSU Faculty Cup Award.

Honor Cord Recipients

Campbell Eubanks
Zachary Griffith
Rakaiya Martin

Bailey Melton
Arianna Poveda
Jonathan Robertson

Elise Snow
Don'ya Truesdale

Honor Society Inductees

Phi Kappa Phi

Joshua Adams
Latoria Akins-Jackson
MAJ Kayleigh Cassella
Elizabeth Chess
Meagan Chrisman
Dr. Monica Frazier
Dr. David Hahn

Sonya Mahon
Stephanie Marchant
Danielle Navarrete
Wesley Parker
Heidi Parsons
Arianna Poveda
Michael Pressley

Melina Quspe Saldana
Michelle Rapp
Dr. Stuart Rayfield
CPT David Ricks
CAPT Anthony Scinta
Nancy Shore
Jennifer Stone

Honoris Causa

Paige Abney
Celina Acevedo
Alyssa Ahtziger
Cruz Aguilar
Anadina Amador-Lainez
Makeda Andwele
Jonathan Anuforo
Mayah Atchison
Arshman Balouch
Jay Barnes
Sam Barnett
Mackenzie Batastini
Madison Beaver
Zane Bell
Joseph Belle
Hayden Bennett
Ari Betan-Snook
Jameer Bradley
Tymere Britt
London Broussard
Aidan Brown
Daphne Bryant
Chantel Buchanan
Ella Butcher
Ansley Caldwell
Mackenzie Caldwell
Kendall Calhoun

Colleen Carter
Jenifer Castillo
Reed Castrejon
Quinn Caughran
Jessica Cegarra Arraiz
Allariah Chapman
Jamie Chappell
Jacob Chardos
Beatriz Chavez-Almanza
Alyssa Clark
Lily Conner
Emily Crews
Rhyan Cupp
Chloe Curbelo
April Currington
Jamirra Dallas
Camren Davis
Edgardo Diokno III
Ahmad Djigal
Lennox Dodd
Kaylee Dodson
Keir Etchison
Sebastien Fequiere
Gage Ficalore
Savannah Flowers
Marlen Franquez Martinez
Jonathan Gaboury

Lexi Gavin
Amelia Goodwin
Toni Haleyalur
Joseph Hamer
Alexa Hernandez
Isidore Hernandez-Angel
Dan Holban
Joseph Holder
Melanie Hollis
Zachary Hornbeck
Kriston Huling
Michaela Hunt Dumlao
Cameron Hunt-Clark
Zada Ivey
Payton Jackson
Nadia Jacobs
Cari Johnson
Desaray Jones
Morgan Jones
Treasure Jones
Tatiana Jordan
Joshua Kelley
Mishkat Khan
Lynsie Kilgore
Kyla King
Aidan Knighton
Alyssa Knowles

Dulce Landa
Brandon Le
Ethan Le
Shawn'a Lee
Bekka Leek
Jillian Lewis
Christina Longs
Harry L'oste-Brown
Joshua Lowery
Desteny Lyons
Emalie Maddox-Brummitt
Caro Maldonado
Dana McDaniel
Erin McIntyre
Tacorvius Mellion
Joseph Mendis
Celina Miles
Abbigail Miller
Quinton Mills
Nathan Mitchell
Nicole Mitchell
Rico Mora
Vivian Nguyen
Glory Okparume
Ruben Ortiz-Trujillo
Olivia Osborne
Annaleise Ovdenk

Zino Oziwo
Anna Parmer
Danielle Parra
Aidan Phillips
Nylah Phillips
Liz Plascencia
Markayla Powell
Jiane Rabara
Keren Ray
Guinevere Reece
Liv Rice
Jackson Rieves
Thomas Rivera
Layne Roberts
Ann Marie Robinson
Cody Robinson
Jessie Rosinbaum
Jasmine Ross
Valeria Saer
Raymond Sanabria
Manmeet Sandhu
Gernee Scott
Matthew Scott
Jagrishi Settipalli
Delmas Shipman
Emma Silverstein
Jonah Simpson

Brody Sinko
Lizzie Smith
Hannah Smith
Kailaa Smith
Abigail Spencer
Faith Stegeman
Apollo Thomas
Victoria Trieu
Jonah Trombley
Michaela Troyani
Jacquese Tucker
Riley Tucker
Sam Vaillancourt
Ilissa Valentine
London Van Every
Noah Vega
Nicolette Villacorta
Halle Watley
Cariann Wilkes
Ethan Williams
Zoe Williams
Madison Witzke
Sarah Woessner
Cameron Woods
Jacob Zasada
Yiduo Zhao