

# ASPIRATIONS



## What's Happening at the Honors College?

Welcome to Aspirations, the newsletter of the Honors College!

Here, we highlight the people, projects, and possibilities that shape our honors community. Each issue celebrates the achievements, ideas, and experiences that make our college extraordinary. On behalf of the Honors College staff, we hope you enjoy Aspirations and invite you to share your ideas for future editions.



# Honors Convocation 2025: Welcoming New Scholars and Celebrating Returning Trailblazers

## Kicking Off the 2025-26 School Year

We began the new academic year with our annual Honors Convocation, where we welcomed new and returning students and revisited what it means to be part of the Honors community.

After an exciting introduction, students divided into groups based on their areas of study and met with the faculty members within their academic colleges.



## Brilliant Minds at Work

Each group also participated in a brainstorming session for our upcoming colloquium series, generating a wide range of potential discussion topics which included:

Should we colonize the moon or mars and are set curriculums ruining creativity?





# Laureate Luncheon

## Bringing Scholars and Supporters Together Over Lunch and Laughter

This year we proudly hosted our annual Laureate Luncheon at Green Island Country Club. It is a cherished tradition that brings together Honors College scholarship recipients and the generous donors who support their success.



Students had the opportunity to share their achievements, discuss their goals, and express their gratitude while connecting personally with the donors who help make their academic journeys possible at Columbus State University.

We offer our sincere thanks to all who attended and contributed to the success of this meaningful gathering.



# The Black & White Ceremony

## Celebrating Graduating Seniors



This December, we came together for our annual Black and White Ceremony to celebrate the outstanding achievements of our Fall 2025 pin and Honors seal recipients.

This special event, held at The Loft on Broadway, recognizes the hard work and dedication of our graduating Honors scholars, celebrating their academic excellence and commitment to success. This fall, we celebrated 10 students who graduated with their Honors seal and 10 honors students who received their Honors pins.





# Our Student Organization: Honoris Causa

## Supporting Honors Students through our Student Organization

There was no shortage of opportunities to connect, have fun, and support each other throughout the semester!

Honors Causa hosted many events – such as the annual “Back-to-School” picnic, Trunk or Treat, and the ever-popular Cookies & Cramming.



Honoris Causa is dedicated to supporting and enriching the honors student experience by bringing our community together. The organization focuses on students' social, academic, and professional growth through meaningful events, collaboration with campus partners, and sharing valuable information and opportunities.



# Honors Fall Showcase

## Helping Highschool Seniors Imagine their Future with the Honors College

The new Columbus State University Fall Showcase, held in November allowed potential students to learn more about CSU and the programs we offer. The Honors College hosted a breakfast, welcoming high school seniors to explore all the opportunities our program offers.

Attendees met current scholars, toured campus, and explored the unique academic programs, research opportunities, and student experiences that make our college special.

The event aimed to inspire these future students to apply and take the next step toward joining our vibrant honors community.





# Events

## BACK TO SCHOOL PICNIC



The Honors College kicked off the semester with a Back-to-School Picnic, hosted by our Dean. Students enjoyed a relaxed afternoon of food, games, and conversation, connecting with classmates and faculty alike.

## FRIENDSGIVING

Before break, we held our Friendsgiving dinner, giving students a chance spend time together at their last honors event of the year.



## DAY OF SERVICE

The Honors College has a large list of students who participate in Day of Service annually. To accompany all students who registered, we were split into two different groups.





# Honors 3555 - Understanding Ourselves Through Indigenous Cultures of Australasia & North America



**Interpreting human experience through the creative, linguistic, and philosophical works of Indigenous cultures**

This course was taught by CSU's Fall 2025 Fulbright Scholar, Dr. Michelle Eady. She currently resides in Australia and joined us in September to teach students how to engage with holistic Indigenous perspectives and pedagogies in a sensitive and culturally safe environment for all.

Students raved about the field trips and new cultural experiences they had in class and shared personal moments with peers that will last a lifetime. They also raised money for a donation to a children's cancer center.





# RIVR 1101H: Taking the Plunge

This year marked the beginning of CSU's new RIVR classes. These classes are a series of two classes, RIVR 1101 taken freshmen year and RIVR 2101 to be taken in their sophomore year. The RIVR classes are themed around current concepts that spark curiosity and creative thinking, boosting professional communication skills, and thriving in collaborative environments. The classes help students showcase their learning through a dynamic hands-on project, giving a public presentation, or creating a display that highlights the students' passions and connects to their future career.



One of the two honors sections explored the profound environmental, economic and historic significance of the Chattahoochee River to Columbus and surrounding communities. The students analyzed archival maps and interviewed local business leaders to gain insight into the historical and economic importance of the river. The class used the City as Text teaching method by weaving together multidisciplinary team-based research projects to gain a deeper understanding of how the Chattahoochee River plays in the past, present, and future of the region.



# Thank You to Our Esteemed Laureate Society

Mr. and Mrs. R. Gary Allen  
Mrs. Peggy H. Batastini  
Mr. Josue Becerra  
Dr. and Mrs. James E. Buntin  
Ms. Sharron Caldwell  
Mr. Robert Anness and Mrs. Katharine Cannella  
Mr. and Mrs. Larry Cardin  
Mrs. K. Michele Carlisle  
Ms. Stephanie Carney  
Mrs. Kelly Cooper  
Mrs. Diane Dana  
Ms. Beverly Mack Davis  
Ms. Janet W. Davis  
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Mrs. Susan Dolan  
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Mr. Tyler Krug  
Ms. Rachel Lambert  
Dr. Kayron Laska and Mr. John Laska  
Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Lewack  
Dr. and Mrs. David F. Lewis  
Dr. Ryan Lynch and Mrs. Jackie Lynch  
Mrs. Hildagine Manio

Mrs. Rayonna McGregor  
Mr. and Mrs. Frank Moody  
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Ms. Abby Moore  
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Mr. Donald Osborne  
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Ms. Grace A. Pippas  
Dr. and Mrs. Andrew Pippas  
Mr. Kenneth Ragan  
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Ms. Maryah Thompson  
Mr. William and Dr. Susan Tomkiewicz  
Mr. and Mrs. Michael O. Ussery  
Mr. and Mrs. Torrey S. Wiley  
Mr. and Mrs. James D. Yancey  
Dr. and Mrs. Alonzo Jones  
Mr. and Mrs. Bob May  
Dr. Shikha Shah



## Our Vision

The Honors College will make Columbus State University a first choice institution for students who strive to succeed by championing innovative instruction, undergraduate research, and interdisciplinary studies.

## Our Mission

Our dual mission provides an innovatively delivered curriculum for high achieving students and advances the intellectual growth and recognition of the university.

Our college challenges a diverse community of students to individualize their academic experiences, while serving as an institutional champion for undergraduate research, interdisciplinary studies, and creative instruction.



Do you have a student or faculty member you would like to spotlight, or just have a suggestion for an upcoming edition of *Aspirations*?

Please send us an email at [honors@columbusstate.edu](mailto:honors@columbusstate.edu)  
We would love your suggestions!