



2022

Scholarship Luncheon

"Mobilizing Equity in the Transportation Industry"

COMT  **COLUMBUS**
Moving the Nation

JUNE
1
2022

11:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.
The Grand Event Center
820 Goodale Blvd.
Columbus, OH 43212



QUINCY J. HOWARD
President
COMTO Columbus

Welcome

Our former First Lady of the United States Michelle Obama, once said “The only limit to the height of your achievements is the reach of your dreams and your willingness to work hard for them.” Today we celebrate the great accomplishments of some of tomorrow’s leaders as they work toward their dreams that will change our world. COMTO Columbus can only hope to play a small part in their success by lessening the burden of how they will pay for it. Congratulations to all of our scholarship recipients!

Our Mission

The Conference Of Minority Transportation Officials of Columbus (COMTO Columbus) is one of 35 Chapters nationwide. COMTO’s expanding national footprint has a rich history of advocacy, networking, education and professional development training. It is supplemented by a strong and growing multi-state infrastructure of chapters whose members support the COMTO values of inclusion, disadvantaged business equity, the sharing of intellectual capital, and a focused compassion for diversity in multimodal transportation. On the chapter level, COMTO Columbus is an independent non-profit organization that is a pathway to partnership with state, county and local officials as well as the private sector. COMTO Columbus engages these entities to determine strategic priorities for multimodal transportation development in Central Ohio.

Advocacy | Diversity & Inclusion
Education & Scholarship | Integrity | Service

What We Believe

We believe that diversity moves the nation. We believe that the leadership of a massive industry that has the responsibility of transporting all people all the time should reflect the complex mosaic of those they serve. We believe that commitment to inclusion across race, gender, age, religion, identity and experience moves us forward every day.

PROGRAM

WELCOME

Quincy J. Howard
President, COMTO Columbus

INVOCATION

Cornell R. Robertson, P.E., P.S., Franklin County Engineer
Scarlet Level Sponsor

OPENING

Master of Ceremonies

Andrew Kinsey
Anchor, WBNS-10TV

HONOREE REMARKS

Ayanna Howard, Ph.D.

Trailblazer Award

HONOREE REMARKS

Kenneth N. Wilson

Excellence in Diversity Award

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

April Rai

President & CEO, COMTO National

PRESENTATION OF SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

THANK YOU

Simone Y. Burley
COMTO Columbus Scholarship Chairperson



MASTER OF CEREMONIES

Andrew is a Multi-Emmy award-winning journalist with years of experience. For more than six years, Andrew offered viewers across Northwest Ohio and Southeast Michigan – a front-row seat to the biggest news stories of the day. He traveled across state lines to report live from presidential visits, natural disasters, a Super Bowl, and civil rights protests. His dedication and ability to cover anything, anywhere has earned him deep respect and admiration from viewers.

ANDREW KINSEY
Anchor
WBNS-10TV

Andrew is a talented, experienced journalist who takes a thoughtful approach to every story he covers. As an anchor, he's a newsroom leader who cares about the entire team. He is fiercely competitive, loyal, and committed to hard work in an ever-evolving industry.

His humble beginnings in the industry started as an unpaid radio intern. He has since worked in radio, local news, and national news.

For more than 10 years, Andrew has dedicated himself to serving the community by supporting inner-city youth, breast cancer research, the homeless, and people recovering from addictions.

In addition to his work in television, he is the founder of the youth mentoring foundation Andrew Cares. He is a sought-after motivational and inspirational speaker. Andrew believes we are all truly dependent on one another's benevolence and goodwill. So he is doing his part to help others and transform lives.

In addition to several Emmy awards, the Associated Press honored Andrew with awards for Best Anchor and Best Investigative Reporter.

He also holds prestigious honors from various community organizations for his commitment to journalism and the community.

Prior to his move to Columbus, Andrew was the 5, 6 & 11 anchor at WTOL 11 in Toledo, Ohio, weekend morning anchor at WAPT in Jackson, Mississippi, Southeast Desk Coordinator at CNN in Atlanta, GA, Assignment Editor at WSB-TV in Atlanta, GA and Traffic Reporter for several radio stations in the competitive Atlanta market.



KEYNOTE SPEAKER

As President & CEO, April works to build upon COMTO's 50-year history of ensuring equitable opportunities and maximum participation for minority individuals, veterans, people with disabilities and minority, women and disadvantaged business enterprises (MWDBEs). With over 15 years of experience managing private, public sector and non-profit organizations, April's career focus has centered on strategic partnership development, coalition building, people and project management. Under the direction of the COMTO

APRIL RAI
President & CEO
COMTO National

Board of Directors Chair, Tanya Adams, April provides strategic leadership, guidance and ensures COMTO operates effectively to further the mission.

Previously, April served as Deputy Executive Director for the Women's Transportation Seminar International (WTS), partnering with the Executive Director to achieve the WTS mission and vision. In that role, April focused on the management of operations including serving as Chief of Staff, lead on project planning and execution ensuring deliverability on time and within budget. April managed several board-level committees, strategic initiatives and worked to implement growth and retention strategies for membership, chapters, public and private partners as well as build relationships with advocacy organizations, local, state and federal stakeholders.

Prior to joining WTS, April served as the CEO for the National Organizations for Youth Safety (NOYS), a coalition of over 100 organizations and agencies dedicated to youth health and safety education. In this role, April engaged with transportation stakeholders on road safety programs, injury prevention education and workforce development initiatives.

April previously served as Manager & Affairs Analyst in the Office of the Dean at the University of Maryland, School of Nursing, directing government affairs and communications. In this role, April was responsible for managing the State of Maryland, Action Coalition, an initiative of AARP and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.

April resides in the Washington, DC metro area with her husband, and is based out of COMTO headquarters in Alexandria, VA.



HONOREE

Trailblazer Award

Accomplished roboticist, entrepreneur and educator Ayanna Howard, Ph.D., became dean of The Ohio State University College of Engineering on March 1, 2021. Previously she was chair of the Georgia Institute of Technology School of Interactive Computing in the College of Computing, as well as founder and director of the Human-Automation Systems Lab (HumAnS).

AYANNA HOWARD, Ph.D.
Dean
**The Ohio State
University College
of Engineering**

Her career spans higher education, NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory, and the private sector. Dr. Howard is the founder and president of the board of directors of Zyrobotics, a Georgia Tech spin-off company that develops mobile therapy and educational products for children with special needs. Zyrobotics products are based on Dr. Howard's research.

Among many accolades, Forbes named Dr. Howard to its America's Top 50 Women In Tech list. In May 2021, the Association for Computing Machinery named her the ACM Athena Lecturer in recognition of fundamental contributions to the development of accessible human-robotic systems and artificial intelligence, along with forging new paths to broaden participation in computing.

Dr. Howard also is a tenured professor in the college's Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering with a joint appointment in Computer Science and Engineering. As dean, she holds the Monte Ahuja Endowed Dean's Chair, which was established in 2013 through a generous gift from Distinguished Alumnus Monte Ahuja '70.

She is the first woman to lead the College of Engineering. Nationally, only 17% of engineering deans or directors across the country are female, according to the Society of Women Engineers. She also is the college's second Black dean. George Mason University President Gregory Washington served as interim dean from 2008 to 2011. Throughout her career, Dr. Howard has been active in helping to diversify the engineering profession for women, underrepresented minorities, and individuals with disabilities.

Dr. Howard earned her bachelor's degree in computer engineering from Brown University, her master's degree and Ph.D. in electrical engineering from the University of Southern California, and her MBA from Claremont Graduate University.

From 1993 to 2005, she worked at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory, where she held multiple roles including senior robotics researcher and deputy manager in the Office of the Chief Scientist. Among other projects, Howard was involved in developing SmartNav — an autonomous, next-generation Mars rover — and SnoMotes, toy-sized robots that can explore icy terrain that is too dangerous for scientists.

She joined Georgia Tech in 2005 as an associate professor and the founder of the HumAnS lab. The lab focuses on humanized intelligence, which uses techniques such as sensing and learning to enhance the autonomous capabilities of robots or other computerized systems. The HumAnS lab has generated more than 250 publications and \$8.5 million in principal investigators-led research funding.

Among other roles at Georgia Tech, Dr. Howard was program director of the nation's first multidisciplinary robotics PhD program; associate chair for faculty development in the School of Electrical and Computer Engineering; and associate director of research at the Institute for Robotics and Intelligent Machines.

In 2013, she founded Zyrobotics to help translate the lab's research into commercial products for children with special needs. Zyrobotics spun off as a non-profit in 2020.



KENNETH N. WILSON
MPA, CTA
County Administrator
Franklin County

HONOREE

Excellence in Diversity Award

Kenneth N. Wilson was appointed to the position of County Administrator in January 2015. As County Administrator, the highest unelected post in county government, Mr. Wilson leads 14 county agencies with more than 1,400 employees and oversees the county's annual \$1.99 Billion budgeting process for 35 agencies to ensure Franklin County remains one of the finest, best-governed counties in the nation. Mr. Wilson was hired in 2005 as Director for the county's Office of Management and Budget. In 2010, Mr. Wilson was elevated to the role of

Deputy County Administrator for Resource Management, overseeing several agencies including Job and Family Services, the County's largest social service agency.

Prior to joining the county team, Mr. Wilson was Director of Policy for the Ohio Senate Minority Caucus. He holds a Master's in Public Administration from Ohio University and a B.A. from James Madison College at Michigan State University, where he majored in Public Affairs, Metropolitan Studies, and Business. He served as Chairperson of the Solid Waste Authority of Central Ohio and president of the County Administrators Association of Ohio. Currently, he serves as President-Elect of the National Association of County Administrators, Vice-Chair of National Association of Counties (NACo) Healthy Counties Initiative Advisory Board, Vice-Chair of National Association of Counties Health Steering Policy Committee, NACo Programs and Services Standing Committee, Vice-Chair of Ohio City/County Management Association, Membership Services and is a member of NACo's Large Urban County Caucus; NACo International Economic Development Task Force; the Ohio University Leadership and Public Affairs Advisory Committee; and serves on the board of United Way of Central Ohio, Economic Mobility Coalition, Confluence Community Authority NCA, Hickory Chase Community Authority, Solid Waste Authority of Central Ohio, Greater Columbus Sports Commission, Future Ready Columbus, Experience Columbus and is the designee for the Franklin County Investment Advisory Board and Franklin County Emergency Management Agency.

COMTO Columbus Board Members



Quincy Howard
President



Mark Jones Sr.
1st Vice-President



Andrea Quinichett
2nd Vice-President



Marleise Ryan
Secretary



Valerie Croasmun
Treasurer

Scholarship Committee



Simone Y. Burley
Scholarship Committee
Chair



George Perkins Anene
Scholarship Committee
Co-Chair



Tracy Spikes
Scholarship Committee
Member

The COMTO Columbus Scholarship Program supports our mission of ensuring the continuing legacy of minorities in transportation. COMTO Columbus annually awards multiple academic scholarships to minority undergraduate and graduate students that have ties to the Central Ohio area. Scholarship awardees are represented in all academic backgrounds, especially those that pursue various careers in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) and the transportation industry.

Congratulations Scholarship Recipients



◀ MAURICE HARRISON

Franklin County Engineer Scholarship
\$3,000

Eastmoor Academy High School
4.1 GPA

Biomedical Engineering

PURDUE
UNIVERSITY



SYDNEY HOWARD ▶

Rosa Parks Scholarship
\$3,000

Hampton University
3.77 GPA

Kinesiology



HAMPTON
UNIVERSITY
THE STANDARD OF EXCELLENCE

◀ CAMERON EVANS

COTA Scholarship
\$2,500

Canal Winchester Local Schools
3.6 GPA

Chemical Engineering



University of
CINCINNATI

M'KAIA TRENT ▶

**Ohio Department of
Transportation Scholarship**
\$1,500

Gahanna-Lincoln High School
4.38 GPA

Biochemistry



THE UNIVERSITY OF
CHICAGO



◀ **SYDNEY JOSEPH**

**Ginger Cunningham & Associates
Women of Achievement Scholarship**

\$1,500

Wake Forest University
3.0 GPA

Computer Science
and Engineering



**WAKE FOREST
UNIVERSITY**



GRIFFIN MONTALVO ▶

WSP Scholarship
\$1,500

Reynoldsburg City Schools
4.34 GPA

Computer Engineering



**JOHNS HOPKINS
UNIVERSITY**

◀ **M'KYA TRENT**

Veregy Scholarship
\$1,500

Gahanna-Lincoln High School
3.21 GPA

Information Technology



BGSU

BOWLING GREEN STATE UNIVERSITY

MAXWEL PACE ▶

New Flyer Scholarship
\$1,500

The Ohio State University
3.0 GPA

Mechanical Engineering



**THE OHIO STATE
UNIVERSITY**

Congratulations Scholarship Recipients



◀ DALYEN ALLEN

Columbus Metropolitan Housing Authority Scholarship

\$1,500

Fort Hayes Arts & Academic High School

3.68 GPA

Computer Science/Math



SHIKHA GARG ▶

COMTO Columbus Scholarship

\$1,500

The Ohio State University

3.53 GPA

Mechanical Engineering



THE OHIO STATE
UNIVERSITY

◀ SON HOAI LAM (MILO) NGUYEN

DHDC Scholarship

\$1,500

The Ohio State University

3.54 GPA

Aviation, Aerospace
Engineering, Electrical
Engineering



THE OHIO STATE
UNIVERSITY



MALAYSHA BRUNNER ▶

Advanced Engineering Consultants Scholarship

\$1,500

Linden McKinley

STEM High School

4.13 GPA

Education



ASU

ALABAMA STATE
UNIVERSITY



◀ **UMA MISHRA**

City of Columbus Book Scholarship
\$500

Northland High School
3.8 GPA

Psychology



Capital University
Ask. Think. Lead.

JOSEPH TAMBAI ▶

Franklin County Board of Commissioners Book Scholarship
\$500

Walnut Ridge High School
3.0 GPA

Aviation



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

◀ **KAYLA QUEZADA**

MS Consultants Book Scholarship
\$500

Whitehall-Yearling High School
3.0 GPA

Veterinary Technology



COLUMBUS STATE
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

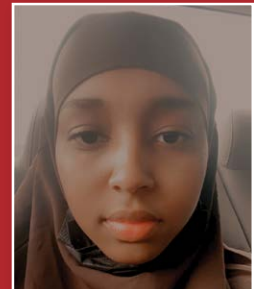


ASIYA DEER ▶

COMTO Columbus Book Scholarship
\$500

Metro Early College High School
3.0 GPA

Nursing



COLUMBUS STATE
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Creation of the COMTO Columbus Student Chapter

In 2022, COMTO Columbus will be establishing a student chapter which proposes to work with state and private colleges/universities to “bridge the gap” between the academic and professional environments. The goal of the COMTO Student Chapter is to build both the technical and professional qualities that students need to pursue a career in the transportation industry but are not necessarily a part of the academic classroom. Student members represent the next generation of forward-thinking professionals ready to take on the challenges and rewards available in a transportation-related field. COMTO offers an opportunity for student members to interact with seasoned professionals and apply what they learn in the classroom into developing innovative solutions to real-world transportation-related issues.

Congratulations!

COMTO  **COLUMBUS**
Moving the Nation



**FOR RECEIVING THE
2022 DIRECTOR'S AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN
DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION**



5th Annual Civil Rights Transportation Symposium



**THANK YOU
SCHOLARSHIP
SPONSORS!**

COMTO COLUMBUS
Moving the Nation




**COLUMBUS METROPOLITAN
HOUSING AUTHORITY**
COMMUNITY. COMMITMENT. COLLABORATION.



Cornell R. Robertson
Franklin County Engineer



COTA



US
OFFICE OF DIVERSITY
AND INCLUSION

WSP

**GINGER
CUNNINGHAM
ASSOCIATES**
Business Development
Consulting Services

 **VEREGY**

 **ms consultants, inc.**
engineers, architects, planners



NEW FLYER



Franklin County
Board of Commissioners
**OFFICE OF DIVERSITY
EQUITY & INCLUSION**
1803

SAVE THE DATE

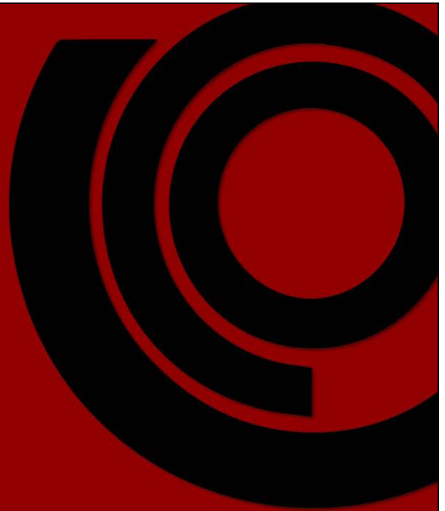
COMTO Columbus 2023 Scholarship Luncheon

*"Prepare to Lead" - Developing Our Next
Generation in the Transportation Industry"*

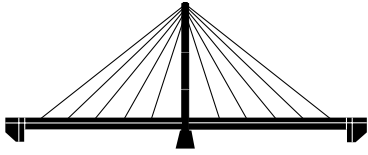
Wednesday, June 7, 2023
11:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

The Grand Event Center
At Grandview Yard

820 Goodale Avenue
Columbus, Ohio 43212



Scarlet Level Partners



Cornell R. Robertson
Franklin County Engineer



Gray Level Partners



Friends of COMTO Columbus

