



2023

Scholarship Luncheon

"Advancing the Voice of Equity in the Next Generation of Leaders"



JUNE
7
2023

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

OPENING

Master of Ceremonies

*Andrew Kinsey
Anchor, WBNS-10TV*

WELCOME

*Quincy J. Howard
President, COMTO Columbus*

INVOCATION

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

HONOREE REMARKS

Senator Hearcel F. Craig
Community Service Award

HONOREE REMARKS

Sherrice Sledge-Thomas
Excellence in Diversity Award

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Tanya Adams

*Senior Vice President of Inclusion & Diversity, WSP USA
Board of Trustee Chair for 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.

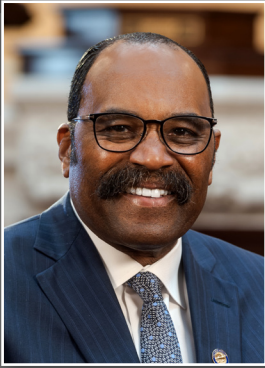
For more than 10 years, Andrew has dedicated himself to serving the community by supporting inner-city youth, breast cancer research, the homeless, and people recovering from addictions.

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.



HONOREE

Community Service Award

SENATOR

HEARCEL F. CRAIG

*15th District of the
Ohio State Senate*

State Senator Hearcel F. Craig currently represents Ohio's 15th Senate District and holds the position of Assistant Minority Leader. Craig has an extensive background in public service at the state and local levels. Prior to being elected to the Ohio Senate in 2018 and 2022, he served in the Ohio House and on Columbus City Council. Craig serves as the Ranking Member on the Senate Insurance and Veterans and Public Safety Committees. Senator Craig also sits on the Senate Finance; Medicaid; and Rules and Reference Committees. Additionally, Senator Craig serves as Sergeant-at-Arms for the Ohio Legislative Black Caucus. 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.

Senator Craig earned a Master of Science in Administration degree from Central Michigan University and a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration degree from Franklin University. He also studied at Ashland Theological Seminary as part of their Master of Divinity program and was a Join Together National Leadership Fellow at Boston University School of Public Health. Senator Craig completed the Bowhay Institute for Legislative Leadership Development (BILLD) in 2015. He was certified as an NASD Arbitrator in 2007, and proudly served our nation in the United States Army from 1970 – 1972.

Craig's career as a public servant began when he worked as a legislative liaison for the Ohio Department of Youth Services (ODYS). During his tenure at ODYS, Craig drafted legislation and secured legislative sponsorship for bills introduced in the Ohio General Assembly. One of the pieces of legislation he helped bring to fruition was House Bill 812, which secured \$83 million for much-needed capital improvements to ODYS facilities. Senator Craig then served as Director of Recruitment & Admissions for City Year, where he worked to improve the lives of young professionals through service and leadership development. The City Year program recruits young adults to work full-time for one year on various social service projects around Columbus. As a result of his efforts, City Year corps members can

receive valuable training and leadership skills that will benefit them later in their professional lives.

During his time serving on Columbus City Council, Craig was named President Pro Tempore and chaired committees that dealt with the city's infrastructure, such as the Public Service & Transportation Committee, Small & Minority Business Development Committee, and the Recreation & Parks Committee. Additionally, Craig had the opportunity to chair committees that allowed him to interact directly with the people of Columbus. These committees included the Health & Human Services Committee and the Veterans' Affairs Committee, where he continued advocating for the wellbeing of the community while meeting the needs of veterans, service personnel and their families. He worked tirelessly to connect veterans with existing services and resources in the community and created new initiatives, such as the Better Municipal Care for Veterans Home Fund, which helps veterans and their families make needed repairs to their homes. Since the beginning of his career, Craig's priorities as a public servant have included creating access to a wide range of programs and services that enhance the quality of life for children, families, veterans, and seniors. He has remained committed to these values while serving in the Ohio Senate.

Senator Craig also has senior leadership and management experience in both the public and private sectors. As the Executive Director of the Hilltop Civic Council, he managed the comprehensive social service agency which served approximately 10,000 people annually in one of Columbus' historic neighborhoods. During this time, he helped the Hilltop Civic Council administer its \$1.2 million annual budget toward initiatives like a comprehensive community health care center, youth and senior services, a resettlement center for new Americans and a food and clothing pantry. Craig was also appointed as Auto Policy Issue Manager at JC Penney Casualty Insurance Co.

Throughout his career, Craig has volunteered his time as a trustee on numerous community service boards centered on education and is a lifetime member of the NAACP. He has served as a member of the Columbus Public Schools Equity Task Force; Columbus State Community College Department of Business, Industry Technology Curriculum Committee; Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance; Southside Learning and Development Center's Board of Trustees; Ohio Hunger Task Force Board of Trustees; Columbus Cultural Arts Center Board of Trustees; and Prince Hall Masons. He previously served on the board of the Military Veterans Resource Center and as board chair for the Alliance for Cooperative Justice, Franklin County Prevention Institute, and State Education Committee for the Columbus Chapter of the NAACP. Senator Craig has also completed Leadership Columbus, Leadership Ohio, and the Ohio Executive Institute.

Senator Craig has received a number of awards for his contributions to his community and Ohio, including the Foster O. Newlin Award by his fraternity, Kappa Alpha Psi, Inc. (2003); Healthcare Hero Award, Columbus Neighborhood Healthcare Centers, Inc. (2009); Public Servant of the Year award by Community Shares of Mid-Ohio (2011); AMVETS Department of Ohio Legislator; Who's Who Black Columbus Community Service Award; Iota Phi Theta Fraternity, Inc. (2013); Greater Columbus Basketball Legends (GCBLA) Leadership Award (2019); and Columbus Public Schools Golden Ruler Award (1990). In 2015, Craig had the distinguished honor of being inducted into the Military Order of the Purple Heart for his continuous support of veterans. Craig also received the prestigious award representing USARYIS at the 9th Annual Gold Plate Dinner while serving in the U.S. Army.

Senator Craig and his wife, Linda, are the proud parents of four children, eleven grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren. Craig serves as an Associate Minister at the First Church of God and continues his dedication to Ohioans in his new role as Assistant Minority Leader in the Ohio Senate.



**SHERRICE
SLEDGE-THOMAS**
*Vice President of
Diversity, Equity,
Inclusion & Access*
**Columbus Chamber
of Commerce**

HONOREE

Excellence in Diversity Award

As the Vice President of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Access (DEIA) at the Columbus Chamber Foundation, Sherrice activates systemic change strategies for equity and inclusion in the business community.

Prior to joining the Chamber, Sherrice served as the Director of Change Management at NiSource, one of the largest fully-regulated utility companies in the United States. Sherrice spent 19 years at Nationwide, a Fortune 100 company, holding leadership roles in Organization Effectiveness, Talent Management, and Leadership Development.

Sherrice holds a Master of Business Administration with a focus in Organizational Leadership and Management from Franklin University and a Bachelor of Arts degree with a focus in Women's Studies from The Ohio State University. She cooks with her family in her free time, creates herbal medicine, and practices yoga.



KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Tanya works with WSP USA's business lines, regions, and functional groups to create a work environment that produces three key outcomes: a culture of trust that provides safe spaces for sensitive conversations; increased workforce diversity and advancement of WSP diversity talent; and greater support for WSP colleagues who are leaders in underrepresented communities. In addition, in her role as Senior Vice President of Inclusion and Diversity, Tanya advocates for minority business involvement in both the engineering and business communities and on WSP USA's contracts. Prior to joining the firm, she served in leadership roles with the Illinois Department of Transportation for 19 years.

TANYA ADAMS
*Senior Vice President
of Inclusion & Diversity,
WSP USA and Board of
Trustee Chair for
COMTO National*

Tanya is actively involved in diversity initiatives with community organizations—serving alongside many minority business partners—and she develops and directs both internal and external programs to meet business diversity needs. Tanya's personal objective is to see the diverse faces of America equally reflected at all levels of the transportation industry. She has devoted her career to serving as an advocate and a resource to minority individuals and businesses.

Since 2007, Tanya has been involved in the Conference of Minority Transportation Officials (COMTO), having served as a member of the Board, Corporate Advisory Council, Joint Leadership Team, Women Who Move the Nation Committee, and the Program Planning Committee. In 2016, she was named COMTO's Corporate Executive of the Year, in 2018 she received COMTO's President's Award for Excellence and currently serves as 1st Vice-Chair, recognizing her leadership efforts and outreach to minority and disadvantaged business firms locally and nationwide.

In 2015, she became the first African American woman to be elected to the board of the American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC) of Illinois. She also served as the Chair of ACEC's Students Engaged in Engineering Committee for 10 years, currently serving as Vice Board Chair, Tanya is actively engaging and fostering an interest in the transportation industry among students.

In addition, Tanya is a member of WTS and was named 2018 Woman of the Year; she also actively participates in the Illinois Road and Transportation Builders Association (IRTBA).

COMTO Columbus Board Members



Quincy Howard
President



Scott Porter
1st Vice-President



Marleise Ryan
2nd Vice-President



Amber Boyd
Secretary



Valerie Croasmun
Treasurer

Scholarship Committee



Simone Y. Burley
Scholarship Committee
Chair



George Perkins Anene
Scholarship Committee
Co-Chair

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



◀ ALEXIS CUNNINGHAM

Franklin County Engineer Scholarship

\$4,000

Columbus Academy

4.09 GPA

Chemistry and
Jazz Bass Studies



THE OHIO STATE
UNIVERSITY

JULIANE LUKAMBO ▶

COTA Scholarship

\$4,000

Northland High School

4.33 GPA

Computer Science



University of
Dayton



◀ SYDNEY HOWARD

Rosa L. Parks Scholarship

\$3,500

Hampton University

3.53 GPA

Kinesiology

HAMPTON
UNIVERSITY
THE STANDARD OF EXCELLENCE

MAURICE HARRISON ▶

**Ohio Department of
Transportation Scholarship**

\$3,000

Purdue University

3.05 GPA

Electrical and
Computer Engineering



PURDUE
UNIVERSITY

Congratulations Scholarship Recipients



◀ ZOE LATTA

**City of Columbus Office of Diversity
and Inclusion Scholarship**

\$3,000

Metro Early College High School

3.8 GPA

Aerospace Engineering



AMIRA WELCH ▶

**Franklin County Board of
Commissioners Office of Diversity,
Equity, & Inclusion Scholarship**

\$2,500

Olentangy Orange High School

4.24 GPA

Architecture and Landscape Design

BGSU

BOWLING GREEN STATE UNIVERSITY



◀ GABRIELLE MICHAILLE

ms consultants, inc. Scholarship

\$2,000

The Ohio State University

3.9 GPA

Computer Science
Engineering



**THE OHIO STATE
UNIVERSITY**

MALAYSHA BRUNNER ▶

New Flyer of America Scholarship

\$2,000

Alabama State University

4.0 GPA

Secondary Math Education

ASU

ALABAMA STATE
UNIVERSITY



Congratulations Scholarship Recipients



◀ AFOR FOMBANG

COMTO Columbus Scholarship

\$1,000

Reynoldsburg High School

4.1 GPA

Architecture



ALEXIO SOPHOCLEOUS ▶

Rosa L. Parks Scholarship

\$1,000

Centennial High School

3.8 GPA

Business



**THE OHIO STATE
UNIVERSITY**



◀ ALEXIS MORA ALCANTARA

**GinGer Cunningham & Associates, LLC
Student of Achievement Scholarship**

\$1,000

Columbus State Community College

3.3 GPA

Software Engineering



ALIE BANGURA ▶

**Advanced Engineering
Consultants Scholarship**

\$1,000

Fort Hayes Arts and Academic High School

3.85 GPA

Associate of Science



Congratulations Scholarship Recipients



◀ AMA BABA

COMTO Columbus Scholarship
\$1,000

The Ohio State University
3.4 GPA

Biological Engineering



**THE OHIO STATE
UNIVERSITY**

ARIANNA SETTLES ▶

COMTO Columbus Book Scholarship
\$1,000

Bishop Hartley High School
3.6 GPA

Business



HAMPTON
UNIVERSITY
THE STANDARD OF EXCELLENCE

◀ AYAH DUFFY

WSP USA Scholarship
\$1,000

Northland High School
3.7 GPA

Nursing



BETH THORNTON ▶

**Columbus Metropolitan Housing
Authority Scholarship**
\$1,000

Capital University
2.77 / 3.85 GPA

Juris Doctorate/Master in
Business Administration



**Capital
University**
Ask. Think. Lead.

Congratulations Scholarship Recipients



◀ EDWINA SESHIE

COMTO Columbus Book Scholarship

\$1,000

Independence High School

3.9 GPA

Pharmacy



THE OHIO STATE
UNIVERSITY

GLOIRE MUJANAMA ▶

COMTO Columbus Book Scholarship

\$1,000

Whetstone High School

3.5 GPA

Aviation



BGSU

BOWLING GREEN STATE UNIVERSITY

◀ JOEL PEREZ

**GinGer Cunningham & Associates, LLC
Student of Achievement Scholarship**

\$1,000

Tiffin University

2.8 GPA

Exercise Science



MAGGIE RATLIFF ▶

COMTO Columbus Scholarship

\$1,000

Bishop Watterson High
School 3.8 GPA

Mechanical Engineering



THE UNIVERSITY OF
ALABAMA

Congratulations Scholarship Recipients



◀ NADIYA HARRIS

Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission Scholarship

\$1,000

Bishop Hartley High School
3.8 GPA

Biology Pre Med

HAMPTON
UNIVERSITY
THE STANDARD OF EXCELLENCE

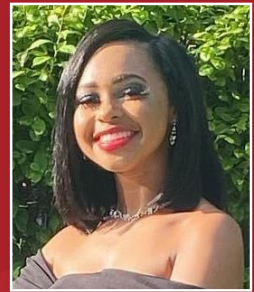
SYDNEY WOODS ▶

CT Consultants Scholarship

\$1,000

Eastmoor Academy High School
3.3 GPA

Business



◀ TERRY COLE

DHDC Engineering Consulting Services, Inc. Scholarship

\$1,000

Bishop Hartley High School
3.37 GPA

Chemical Engineering



XAVIER MATTOX ▶

COMTO Columbus Book Scholarship

\$1,000

Pickerington High School Central
3.8 GPA

Aviation



**THANK YOU
SCHOLARSHIP
SPONSORS!**



Cornell R. Robertson, P.E., P.S.
FRANKLIN COUNTY ENGINEER



NEW FLYER



*Save
THE
Ball*

COMTO COLUMBUS 8TH ANNUAL

**GOLF FORE
EDUCATION**

June 12, 2023

Wedgewood Golf and Country Club
9600 Wedgewood Blvd, Powell, OH 43065



Scarlet Level Partners



Cornell R. Robertson, P.E., P.S.
FRANKLIN COUNTY ENGINEER

Gray Level Partners



Friends of COMTO Columbus



www.comtocolumbus.org