

W UNIVERSITY of WASHINGTON | TACOMA

UW TACOMA **BLACK STUDENT UNION** PRESENTS

THEN, NOW, AND FOREVER



MARTIN LUTHER KING JR UNITY BREAKFAST

JANUARY 15, 2024

8 A.M. | William W. Philip Hall

DEAR GUEST

On behalf of the University of Washington Tacoma, we would like to express our deepest gratitude for your presence at the Martin Luther King Jr. Unity Breakfast.

Your attendance contributes to the success and warmth of the event, and we are genuinely thankful for your support. This occasion is not only an opportunity to celebrate the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. but also a chance to foster unity and understanding within our community.

We believe that events like these play a crucial role in promoting dialogue, inclusivity, and shared values. Your participation not only helps create a vibrant atmosphere but also strengthens the bonds that make our university community unique.

We are inspired by your commitment to commemorating the ideals of Dr. King and building a more just and equitable society. Your presence adds immeasurable value to the gathering, and we hope you find it as enriching as we do.

Once again, thank you for being a part of the Martin Luther King Jr. Unity Breakfast. We look forward to future opportunities to come together and continue important conversations that drive positive change in our community.

With sincere appreciation,



MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. UNITY BREAKFAST

Southern Style Breakfast Buffet

Catered by Gallucci's

Program Opening

Program Emcees

Jasmine Davis, President,
Black Student Union

CJ James, Vice President,
Black Student Union

Halanna Williams, Treasurer &
Outreach Coordinator,
Black Student Union

Christian Ashford, Secretary,
Black Student Union

Welcome and Introduction of Black National Anthem

Sheila Edwards Lange, Ph.D, Chancellor

“Lift Ev’ry Voice and Sing”

Alexandria J. Henderson

Remarks and Introduction of Alumni Speaker

Mayor Victoria Woodards,
City of Tacoma

Alumni Speaker

Courtney Acoff '10, UW Tacoma Alumna

Dream Awards Presentation

Legacy Award

Organization Award

Individual Student Award

Presented by

Christian Ashford,
Black Student Union

Nicole Renee Jordan,
Office of Equity & Inclusion

Chana Lawson,
Black Student Union Alumna

Performance

Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Incorporated,
Alpha Xi Chapter

Introduction of Keynote Speaker

Halanna Williams and Jasmine Davis,
Black Student Union

Keynote Speaker

A'ric Jackson, The Dream Achiever

Closing Remarks

Mentha Hynes-Wilson,
Vice Chancellor, Student Affairs

Black Student Union Officers

ABOUT THE EVENT

The University of Washington Tacoma Black Student Union is excited to bring the community together at its **16th Annual Martin Luther King Jr. Unity Breakfast**. It is a celebration that honors the contributions offered and inspired by Dr. King and provides an opportunity to bring our diverse communities together around a common goal of healing, hopefulness, equity, and justice.



ABOUT COURTNEY ACOFF

Courtney Acoff (SIAS '10) currently serves as the Pierce County District Representative for Congressman Derek Kilmer's Office (WA-6). She graduated with her bachelor's degree in communications and was part of the first graduating freshman class at the Tacoma campus. She loves spending time with her family and friends and attending her kids' sports games. She previously worked for 13 years at Metro Parks Tacoma in a range of roles, including as the Community Outreach and Engagement Specialist, which broadened her work on behalf of serving marginalized communities. As a Certified Diversity Consultant, her focus is to acknowledge the intersectionality of life, along with the complexity those intersections bring to service organizations. Courtney currently sits on the Board as an At-Large-Trustee to the University of Washington Alumni Association, serves as a Commissioner to the Human Rights Commission for the City of Tacoma and is an active leader of Pierce County Community Engagement Task Force.



ABOUT A'RIC JACKSON

For over a decade, people have been inspired and motivated by the words of Mr. A'ric Jackson. His mission is to Teach, Inspire, and Encourage all those who hear him, and to take the challenge of helping others pursue their goals and dreams. A charismatic and genuinely heartfelt communicator, A'ric truly electrifies an audience. Watching him speak on stage helps you realize why he is such a unique and gifted orator. For it takes a genuine speaker to present information with shared experience, passion to research a topic much deeper, and to share that information with the audience using skills that will make it a memorable and exciting experience for all. A'ric has served as a student leadership speaker for organizations like Future Business Leaders of America, Health Occupation Students Association, DECA, FCCLA, National Association of Secondary School Principals LEAD Conferences, and many Statewide Student Council Conferences across the country. For more information visit: TopYouthSpeakers.com.



ABOUT ALPHA PHI ALPHA GREEK STEP TEAM

Founded in 1906 at Cornell University, Alpha Phi Alpha was the first intercollegiate Greek-letter fraternity established for African American men. The fraternity now has chapters all across the United States, including at the University of Washington. Today, Alpha Phi Alpha works to develop leaders, promote brotherhood and academic excellence, while providing service and advocacy for their communities. For more information visit: apa1906.net.



ABOUT ALEXANDRIA J. HENDERSON

Alexandria J. Henderson is a performing artist currently residing in south Puget Sound. She holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Music - Vocal Performance, and is a graduate of The Atlantic Acting School's inaugural Global Virtual Conservatory. Alexandria has been seen on various musical theatre stages as Billie Holiday in *Lady Day* at Emerson's Bar and Grill; Elle Woods in *Legally Blonde*; Lorrell Robinson in *Dreamgirls* (for which she won a Gregory Award for Outstanding Supporting Actress in a Musical); and is currently Janelle Woods in *Beautiful: The Carole King Musical* at Village Theatre.

"LIFT EV'RY VOICE AND SING" (BLACK NATIONAL ANTHEM)

James Weldon Johnson, words | John Rosamond Johnson, music

Lift ev'ry voice and sing, till earth and heaven ring,
Ring with the harmonies of liberty;
Let our rejoicing rise, high as the listening 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 till victory is won.

Stony the road we trod, bitter the chastening rod,
Felt in the days when hope unborn had died;
Yet with a steady beat, have not our weary feet,
Come to the place for which our fathers sighed?
We have come over a way that with tears has been watered,
We have come, treading our path through the blood of the slaughtered;
Out from the gloomy past, till now we stand at last
Where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.

God of our weary years, God of our silent tears,
Thou Who hast brought us thus far on the way;
Thou Who hast by Thy might, led us into the light,
Keep us forever in the path, we pray.
Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met Thee.
Lest our hearts, drunk with the wine of the world, we forget Thee.
Shadowed beneath Thy hand, may we forever stand,
True to our God, true to our native land.

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

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Courtney Acoff

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OUR EVENT PARTNERS

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Event Planning and Logistics Committee

Black Student Union

Christian Ashford

Jasmine Davis

Matthew Hankerson

CJ James

Mata Seck

Halanna Williams

UW Tacoma

Brian Anderson, Marketing & Communications

Cumorah Branham, Equity & Inclusion

Nicole Jordan, Equity & Inclusion

Anne Larsen, Events & Conferences

Chana Lawson, Alumni Relations

Conor Leary, Student Affairs

Brittany Mai, Student Affairs

Alyce McNeil, Student Affairs

Elavie Ndura, Ed.D., Equity & Inclusion

Ebony Peterson, Events & Conferences

Sean Schmidt, Student Affairs

Julia Smith, Office of Community Partnerships

UPCOMING EVENTS



Alumni Speaker series | Desmond Trufant, UW Alumnus
February 1, 2024

Paulsen Lecture | Nikole Hannah-Jones
April 11, 2024

DONATION INFORMATION



WWT Student Affairs Success Fund

Supports activities and initiatives of the Division of Student Affairs, including student leadership and student success programs.

Black Student Union Savings and Reserves

Contributions to the Black Student Union (BSU) Savings and Reserves support social and cultural programs and activities. Make checks payable to "UW Tacoma Black Student Union." Donations to the Black Student Union (BSU) Savings and Reserves are not tax-deductible.



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