

37TH
ANNUAL

YOUNG AND GIFTED

Award Ceremony

COLUMBIA URBAN LEAGUE, INC.



CELEBRATING BLACK HISTORY MONTH WITH A TRIBUTE TO YOUNG AFRICAN AMERICANS

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2023
12 NOON
BROOKLAND BAPTIST CHURCH
1066 SUNSET BLVD
WEST COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA 29169

MR. JAMES T. MCLAWHORN, JR.
PRESIDENT & CEO
COLUMBIA URBAN LEAGUE, INC.

MR. BRUCE HUGHES
CHAIR, BOARD OF DIRECTORS
COLUMBIA URBAN LEAGUE, INC.

DID YOU KNOW?

Top Row (Left to Right):

1. **Shaquille O'Neal**-is a former American professional basketball player who seventeen years, after leaving college early to enter the NBA draft, earned his doctorate degree in education from Barry University in Miami. Dr. O'Neal graduated with a 3.813 GPA.
2. **Mary Mcleod Bethune**-On October 3, 1904, Bethune opened one of the first schools for African American girls, Daytona Educational and Industrial Training School, in Daytona Beach, Florida, which is now called Bethune-Cookman College. Because Bethune had very little money, she used boxes and packaged crates for desks and charged \$.50 a week for tuition. In addition to working hard to maintain the school, Bethune also fought aggressively the segregation and inequality facing African Americans, even opening a high school and a hospital for African Americans.
3. **Will.i.am**-is an Jamaican-American singer and rapper who is one of founding members of the The Black Eyed Peas was discovered in high school. He produced and wrote the majority of The Black Eyed Peas' musics. Before joining the Black Eyed Peas, Will.i.am attended the Fashion Institute of Design & Merchandising in Los Angeles. In 2001, he began designing his own signature clothing line, i.am, which made its official debut in 2005 at the Magic Apparel Trade Show in Las Vegas.
4. **Erin Gruwell** is a teacher, an author, and an activist who has been fighting for social justice for over two decades. Erin's students - affectionately called the Freedom Writers - came from backgrounds of poverty, gangs, and violence, and many were at-risk of dropping out of school due to the school-to prison-pipeline. The book became a #1 New York Times bestseller and was adapted into a major motion picture, Freedom Writers. The film brought Erin's work to an even wider audience, and she has since used her platform to continue her fight for equity and inclusion with her non-profit, the Freedom Writers Foundation.
5. **Albert Einstein**- Einstein was a German-born theoretical physicist, widely acknowledged to be one of the greatest and most influential physicists of all time. He is best known for his equation $E = mc^2$, which states that energy and mass are the same thing, and his discovery of the photoelectric effect, which he won the Nobel Prize for Physics in 1921.

2nd Row (Left to Right):

1. **Maxine Walters**-She began her career in public service as a teacher and a volunteer coordinator in the Head Start program and has gained a reputation as a fearless and outspoken advocate for women, children, people of color and the poor. She made history as the first woman and first African American Chair of the House Financial Services Committee.
2. **Dr. Jeanne L. Noble**- She was the first Black woman to move from assistant to full professor at the New York University School of Education. An innovator and visionary, Noble completed the first basic research on Black women in college and published the book, "The Negro Woman's College Education" and was appointed to many federal national commissions by U.S. Presidents Lyndon Johnson, Richard Nixon, and Gerald Ford.
3. **Carlotta Walls LaNier**- at age 14, was the youngest of the nine courageous Black students known as the Little Rock Nine who integrated Little Rock Central High School in 1957. She, along with the other members of the Little Rock Nine, is the recipient of the nation's highest civilian honor, the Congressional Gold Medal, the prestigious Spingarn Medal, and the Lincoln Leadership Prize. LaNier is a recipient of four honorary doctorate degrees and is an inductee into the Colorado Women's Hall of Fame.
4. **Spike Lee**- An American filmmaker and actor who took film courses at Clark Atlanta University and graduated with a B.A. in Mass Communication from Morehouse and earned his Master of Fine Arts in Film and Television at New York University's Tisch School of the Arts, where he is a tenured Professor of Film and Artistic Director. Lee has written, directed, and produced in excess of 35 movies since he began in 1983.
5. **Chanda Jefferson**-taught Biology, AP Biology, and Chorus at C.A. Johnson High School in Columbia, South Carolina for four years and served in many leadership roles. She started an after-school program to increase students' achievement in science and passage on the SC Biology End-of-Course Exam. She was named 2014-2015 Teacher of the Year and served as an Early College Facilitator and Biology Teacher at Airport High School. She helped pilot the Freshmen Early College Cohort and currently serves as Science Department Chair, STEM Lead teacher, and Science teacher at Fairfield Central High School in Winnsboro, SC. In 2018-2019, she served as Fairfield Central and Fairfield County School District Teachers of the Year and was named 2020 South Carolina Teacher of the Year, making history as the first ever in Fairfield County.

3rd Row (Left to Right):

1. **Kelly Miller**- was a Mathematician who advanced the intellectual life of African Americans, earning several advanced degrees from Fairfield Institute, Howard University and Johns Hopkins University. He was the first Black man to attend Johns Hopkins University and he was first person at Howard University to teach Sociology.
2. **Rita Pierson**-a professional educator since 1972, taught elementary school, junior high and special education. She was a counselor, a testing coordinator and an assistant principal. She is most known for her inspirational TED Talk, Every Kid Needs a Champion, which is highly praised by educators across the globe.

DID YOU KNOW?

3. **Barack Obama**- is an American retired politician who served as the 44th president of the United States. For more than 10 years, President Obama taught constitutional law courses at the University of Chicago Law School as a Senior Lecturer.
4. **Anne Sullivan** at the age of five, Sullivan contracted trachoma, an eye disease, which left her partially blind and without reading or writing skills. Laura Bridgman taught her how to form letters with her fingers to spell out words into the palm of a hand. Sullivan used that finger-spelling method to teach Helen Keller how to communicate.
5. **Jimmy Carter**-The United States Department of Education (often referred to as the ED) is a department of Cabinet-level within the United States Government. The act to establish the department was established and signed by former President Jimmy Carter on October 17th, 1979. The department's mission is to encourage educational excellence by ensuring equality for everyone in terms of accessing education. The department also helps to provide proper education for vulnerable members of the public including the homeless and runaway youths within the U.S.

4th Row (Left to Right):

1. **Inez Beverly Prosser**- was an early 20th century psychologist who focused on educational psychology and the effects of racism. She was the first African-American woman to receive a Ph.D. in psychology in the United States. Prosser evaluated the effects of racial inequality on the mental health of African-American children in her dissertation, "The Non-Academic Development of Negro Children in Mixed and Segregated Schools."
2. **Lyndon B. Johnson**-as a former teacher and president, realized that a lack of education was the primary cause of poverty and other social problems. Educational reform was thus an important pillar of the society he hoped to build. Congress passed the Elementary and Secondary Education Act in 1965, which provided increased federal funding to both elementary and secondary schools, allocating more than \$1 billion for the purchase of books and library materials, and creating educational programs for disadvantaged children. The Higher Education Act, signed into law the same year, provided scholarships and low-interest loans for the poor, increased federal funding for colleges and universities and created a corps of teachers to serve schools in impoverished areas.
3. **Maya Angelou**- the poet, actress, author, and civil rights activist known around the world, discovered her passion for teaching at Wake Forest University. In the past four decades, she has inspired generations of students to become better writers, thinkers, and citizens.
4. **Deion Jamison**- is a 7th-10th grade ELA teacher at Legacy Early College in Greenville with the South Carolina Public Charter School District and was named the 2022 South Carolina Teacher of the Year. Deion is a recipient of the Early Career Educator of Color Leadership award from the National Council of Teachers of English and Teach for America. He was also honored with the Sue Lehmann Excellence in Teacher Leadership award.
5. **Septima Clark**- was the "Mother of the Movement" and the epitome of a "community teacher, an intuitive fighter for human rights and leader of her unlettered and disillusioned people". She studied under W. E. B. Du Bois and earned her BA and MA from Benedict College and Hampton Institute. After retiring in 1970, she conducted workshops for the American Field Service and was elected to the Charleston, South Carolina, School Board.

5th Row (Left to Right):

1. **Edmund W. Gordon**- is one of America's foremost scholars on divergent learning and an early champion of using supplemental education to improve academic outcomes for historically marginalized communities. He has published 18 books and over 200 articles, held positions at numerous prestigious colleges, and has been called the leading Black psychologist of his time.
2. **Fanny Jackson Coppin**-was was born into slavery in Washington, D.C., but her freedom was purchased by an aunt. She was an American educator, missionary and lifelong advocate for female higher education. One of the first Black alumnae of Oberlin College, she served as principal of the Institute for Colored Youth in Philadelphia and became the first African American school superintendent in the United States
3. **Jesse Williams**- often refer as Dr. Jackson Avery on Grey's Anatomy, Jesse graduated from Temple University as double major in African American Studies and Film & Media Arts and worked for six years as a high school teacher in Philadelphia public schools, instructing courses in History, American Studies, African Studies, and English He has coordinated with the platform Scholly to create scholarship opportunities for low-income students, and earned a BET Humanitarian Award in 2016.
4. **Frederick Douglass**- original name Frederick Augustus Washington Bailey is an African American abolitionist, orator, newspaper publisher, and author who is famous for his first autobiography, Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, an American Slave, Written by Himself. He became the first Black U.S. Marshal and was the most photographed American man of the 19th century.
5. **Alexander Graham Bell**- was the inventor of the telephone and taught at schools for the deaf in London, Boston, and Hartford, Connecticut. He had a lifelong interest in the mechanics of speech and hearing and conducted experiments with new speech systems and communication devices, including the phonoautograph, and continued to tutor individual students, including Helen Keller.

CIVIL RIGHTS IN AMERICA



DR. CARTER G. WOODSON

THE FATHER OF AFRICAN-AMERICAN HISTORY

Imagine a world where people like you have no written history, or that which has been written is incomplete or distorted. Before Dr. Carter Godwin Woodson (1875-1950) began his work, there was very little information, and much of that was stereotypical misinformation about the lives and history of Americans of African descent.

Dr. Woodson was the son of former slaves but earned his Ph.D. degree from Harvard University in 1912—only the second black American to do so (after W.E. Dubois). This achievement was even more extraordinary since he did not begin his formal education until he was 20 years old. He had been denied access to public education in Canton, Virginia, where he was born, and did not start school until he moved to Huntington, West Virginia. He received his high school diploma two years later, a bachelor's degree from Berea College in 1897, and went on to earn both a A.B. and M.A degrees from University of Chicago before attending Harvard University.

In 1915, Dr. Woodson founded The Association for the Study of Negro Life and History (The Association) and The Associated Publishers to assure an outlet for the publication of works of African-American history and the scholarly work of black scholars. The Association is now known as The Association for the Study of African-American Life and History (ASALH). In 1926, The Association, under Dr. Woodson's leadership, established Negro History Week to coincide with the birthdays of Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass. Today, the commemoration has expanded into Black History Month.

In 1976, fifty years after the first celebration, The Association used its influence to institutionalize the commemoration from a week to a month and from Negro history to black history. Since the mid-1970s, every American president, both Democrat, and Republican, has issued proclamations endorsing The Association's annual theme. This year's theme is **African American and the Vote**.

"If a race has no history, if it has no worthwhile tradition, it becomes a negligible factor in the thought of the world and it stands in danger of being exterminated." "In fact, the confidence of the people is worth more than money."

-Dr. Carter G. Woodson

PROGRAM

Columbia Urban League's 37th Annual *Young and Gifted Awards Ceremony*

Mr. James T. McLawhorn, Jr., Presiding

Welcome

Mr. Bruce Hughes
Chair
Columbia Urban League Board of Directors

Invocation

Rev. Charles B. Jackson, Jr.
Brookland Baptist Church

Greetings

Ms. Kourtney Moody
Marketing Director
PepsiCo Beverages North America| South Division

Rev. Charles B. Jackson, Jr.
Brookland Baptist Church

Music Selection

Madame Juice

Introduction of Student Keynote Speaker

Dr. J.R. Green
Superintendent
Fairfield County School District

Student Keynote Speaker

Ms. Jacia Green
Senior
Fairfield Central High School

Spotlight & Honorees Awards Recognition

Mrs. Stacy A. Williams
Attorney

Mr. Fraendy Clervaud
WACH Fox
Good Day Columbia Anchor

Poem

Madame Juice

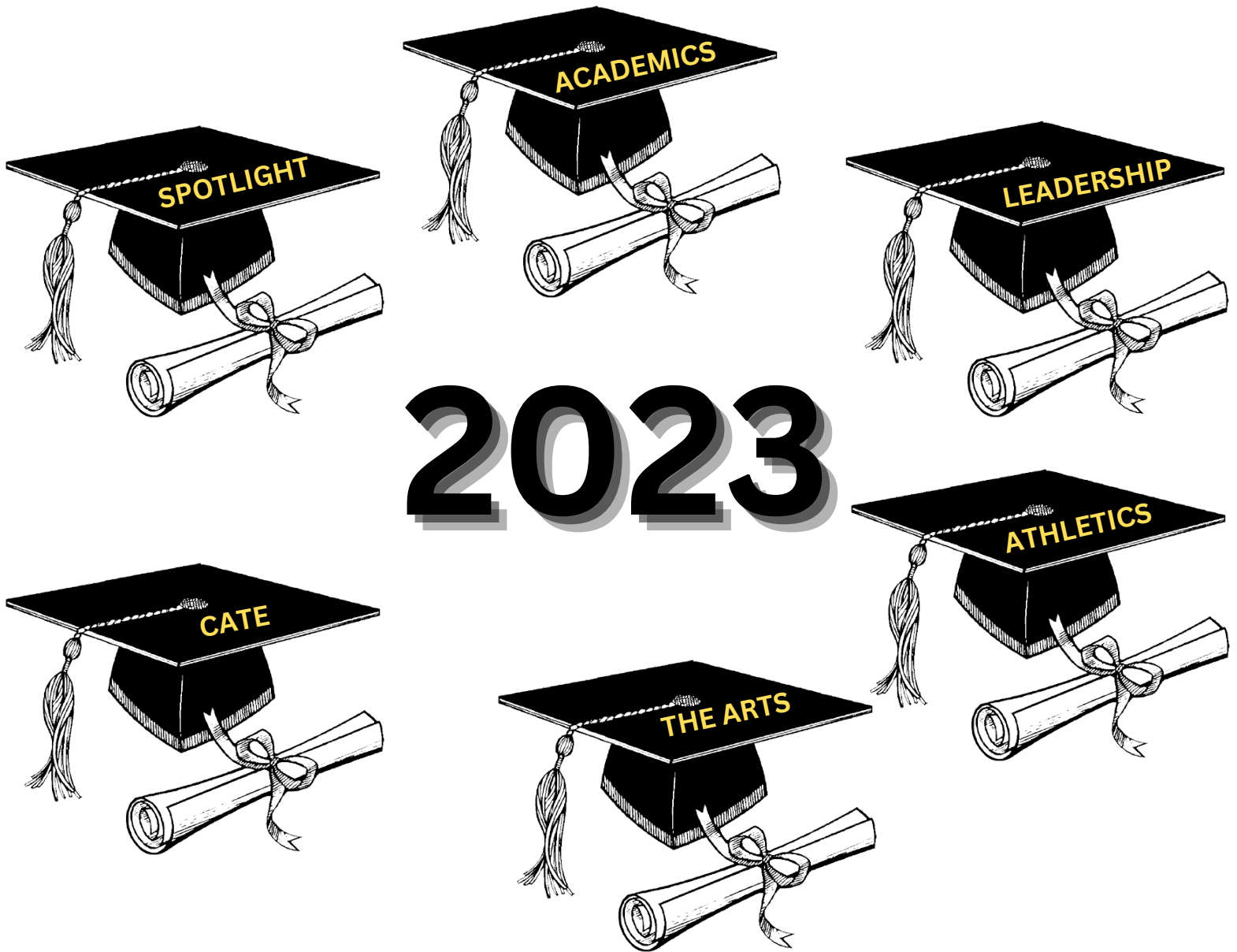
Charge to Honorees

Mr. James T. McLawhorn, Jr.
President & CEO
Columbia Urban League, Inc.

Benediction

Rev. Charles B. Jackson, Jr.
Brookland Baptist Church

YOUNG AND GIFTED AWARD RECIPIENTS



The Young & Gifted Awards ceremony acknowledges African-American high school seniors from Allendale, Calhoun, Clarendon, Fairfield, Florence, Kershaw, Lee, Lexington, Marion, Newberry, Richland, and Sumter counties. We recognize seniors who have excelled in academics, the arts, leadership, technology, and athletics. **This year's theme is Achievement Matters. Our focus has been and continues to be on recognizing achievement as the most defining legacy of Black History Month.**

THE COLUMBIA URBAN LEAGUE

MEET THE DEDICATED TEAM MEMBERS OF OUR ORGANIZATION.

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Chantelle Bell

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Antonia Davis

Regina R. LaBrew

Angel Lyles-Grayer

Alicia McQueen

Jerry M. Screen, Jr.

INTERNS

Sonalis Muhammad

Darren Williams

VOLUNTEERS

Columbia Urban League Young Professionals

Project Ready Program Participants

1st Carolina

"NEVER BE LIMITED BY OTHER PEOPLE'S LIMITED IMAGINATIONS."

-DR. MAE JEMISON, FIRST AFRICAN-AMERICAN WOMAN ASTRONAUGHT

**"EDUCATION IS THE PASSPORT TO THE FUTURE, FOR TOMORROW BELONGS TO
THOSE WHO PREPARE FOR IT TODAY."**

-MALCOLM X, AMERICAN MUSLIM MINISTER AND HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVIST

**"EDUCATION IS THE MOST POWERFUL WEAPON WHICH YOU CAN USE TO CHANGE THE
WORLD."**

-NELSON MANDELA, FIRST BLACK PRESIDENT OF SOUTH AFRICA

"IF THEY DON'T GIVE YOU A SEAT AT THE TABLE, BRING A FOLDING CHAIR."

-SHIRLEY CHISHOLM, THE FIRST AFRICAN-AMERICAN CONGRESSWOMAN

**"BELIEVE IN YOURSELF, LEARN, AND NEVER STOP WANTING TO BUILD A BETTER
WORLD."**

**-MARY MCLEOD BETHUNE, AMERICAN EDUCATOR, PHILANTHROPIST, HUMANITARIAN,
WOMANIST, AND CIVIL RIGHTS ACTIVIST**

**"BOOKS WERE MY PASS TO PERSONAL FREEDOM. I LEARNED TO READ AT AGE THREE,
AND SOON DISCOVERED THERE WAS A WHOLE WORLD TO CONQUER THAT WENT
BEYOND OUR FARM IN MISSISSIPPI."**

-OPRAH WINFREY, FIRST BLACK WOMAN BILLIONAIRE

**"WITH AN EDUCATION, YOU HAVE EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO RISE ABOVE ALL THE
NOISE AND FUFILL EVERY LAST ONE OF YOUR DREAMS."**

-MICHELLE OBAMA, FIRST AFRICAN-AMERICAN FIRST LADY OF THE UNITED STATES

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SUPPORTERS OF THIS EVENT:

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