



Friday April 25, 2025 | 4:00 p.m.
Cunningham Conference Center



COLUMBUS STATE
UNIVERSITY

Scholastic Honors Convocation 2025

Welcome

Dr. Kerri Taylor, 2024-2025 Educator of the Year
Dr. Stuart Rayfield, President, Columbus State University
Adrian Peterson, President, Student Government Association

Announcement of Tower Day Award Winners

Dr. Kerri Taylor, Tower Day Coordinator

College of the Arts Awards

Department of Art

B.A. Studio Art Award.....Karl Cooke
B.F.A. Studio Art Award.....Zoe Rasso
Art History Award.....Nicholas Miller
Art Education Undergraduate Award.....Sera Cole
Student of Excellence Award.....Zoe Rasso

Presented by Professor & Interim Chair Nick Norwood

Department of Communication

Communication Student of the Year Award.....Makeda Andwele
Student of Excellence Award.....Marcos Falck

Presented by Professor & Chair Youngrak Park

Schwob School of Music

Senior Music Major Award.....Diego Montes Olivar
Presser Scholar.....Mikal Martin

Presented by Professor & Director Scott Harris

Department of Theatre & Dance

Theatre Arts Award.....Mary Kate Phillips
Theatre Arts: Performance Award.....Micaiah Byrd
Theatre Arts: Design & Technical Award.....Ollie Cox
Theatre Arts: Education Award.....Charlie Hearn
Student of Excellence Award.....Amanda Byars

Presented by Professor & Chair Larry Dooley

D. Abbott Turner College of Business & Technology

Department of Accounting & Finance

Accounting Award.....Jamie Chappell
Finance Award.....K. Brody Sharpe
Student of Excellence Award.....Mario Parra

Presented by Professor & Chair Gisung Moon

Department of Management & Marketing

Management Award.....Jessica Clover
General Business Award.....Lauren Katzfey
Marketing Award.....Tomiko Salbino
Management Information Systems Award.....Chase Hammock
Master of Business Administration Award.....Ramandeep Kaur
Master of Science in Organizational Leadership Award.....Claudia Veras Lithgow
Student of Excellence Award.....Lillian Patterson

Presented by Professor & Chair John Finley

TSYS School of Computer Science

B.S.in Computer Science: Software Systems Track Award.....	Kaleb Horvath
B.S.in Computer Science: Web Development Track Award.....	Jonathan Falls
B.S.in Computer Science: Games Programming Track Award.....	Jacob Chance Tillman
B.S.in Information Technology Award.....	Brandon Le
B.S.in Computer Science: Cybersecurity Track Award.....	Tyrese Youngblood
B.S.in Computer Science: Enterprise Computing Track Award.....	Jaden Malcolm
M.S. in Applied Computer Science Award.....	Akshith Nukala
M.S.in Cybersecurity Management Award.....	Kenesia Genas
Student of Excellence Award.....	Jaden Jefferson

Presented by Professor & Chair Rania Hodhod

College of Education and Health Professions

Department of Teacher Education, Leadership and Counseling

School Counseling Graduate Award.....	Jasmine Durbin
Clinical Mental Health Counseling Graduate Award.....	Patrick Haley
Educational Leadership Graduate Award.....	Lauren Loughman
Educational Leadership – Higher Education Graduate Award.....	Sarah Braswell
Doctor of Education – Educational Leadership Track Award.....	Jametia (Nichelle) Wimbush
Doctor of Education – Curriculum Track Award.....	Megan Jones
Doctor of Education – Higher Education Administration Award.....	Marisa Carrasco
Elementary Education Undergraduate Award.....	Sara Hernandez
Elementary Education Graduate Award.....	Alana Audia
Middle Grades Education Graduate Award.....	Jasmine Vail-Gomez
English Education Undergraduate Award.....	Isabella Bankston
English Education Graduate Award.....	Caneisha Harbison
Secondary Mathematics Education Graduate Award.....	Kunicko Byrd
UTeach Mathematics Education Undergraduate Award.....	Ta'Mya Talley
UTeach Science Education Undergraduate Award.....	Allison Lansdon
Secondary Science Education Graduate Award.....	Maggie Melton
History Education Undergraduate Award.....	Carey Phifer
Social Science Education Graduate Award.....	Ryan Ashlyn Simpson
Special Education Undergraduate Award.....	April Fuller
Special Education Graduate Award.....	Clara Eysel
Curriculum & Instruction in Accomplished Teaching Graduate Award.....	Leslie Scream
Teacher Leadership Graduate Award.....	Jen Loudermilk
Student of Excellence Award.....	Jarrett Huckaby

Presented by Professor & Chair Deniz Peker

Department of Kinesiology and Health Sciences

Health & Physical Education Graduate Student Award.....	Mareka Howard
Student of Excellence Award- Health & Physical Education Graduate.....	Tynicia McCoy
Student of Excellence Award - Health Science.....	Makenzie Sanders
Student of Excellence Award- Public Health	LaTrice Johnson
Student of Excellence Award –Kinesiology.....	Lauren Barnes

Presented by Professor & Chair Clay Nicks

School of Nursing

Outstanding Nursing B.S.N. Award.....	Tanner Young
Outstanding Nursing M.S.N. Award.....	Summer Walker
Outstanding Nursing R.N.-B.S.N. Award.....	Kianna Tyler-Ullery
Outstanding Nursing F.N.P. Award.....	Kiley Dix
Student of Excellence Award.....	Hannah Downs

Presented by Professor & Director Tamara Condrey

College of Letters and Sciences

Department of English

Literature Award.....	Yasmin Mezayek
Professional Writing Award.....	Casey Carranza
Creative Writing Award.....	Vivian Valle
Student of Excellence Award.....	Kennedy Buckner

Presented by Professor & Chair Judith Livingston

Department of History, Geography, & Philosophy

Philosophy Award.....	Josh Adams
Student of Excellence Award (History).....	Zachary Brundidge
Student of Excellence Award (Geography).....	Hallie Tanner

Presented by Associate Professor & Interim Chair Jonathan Meyers

Department of Society, Culture, & Languages

Outstanding French Track Award.....	Elizabeth Woods
Outstanding Spanish Teacher Education Track Award.....	Latasha Veloz
Outstanding Spanish Literature & Culture Track Award.....	Nicole Martinez
Outstanding Student- General Sociology Track Award.....	Regitta Weinzetil
Outstanding Student- Crime, Deviance, and Society Track.....	Jonathan Mimy-Matthews
Outstanding Student- Social Services Track.....	Jameer Bradley
Student of Excellence Award (Modern Language & Culture)	Caylee Lawhorne
Student of Excellence Award (Sociology).....	Kyleigh Kennedy

Presented by Professor & Chair Joelle Bonamy

Department of Policy, Justice, & Public Safety

Outstanding Political Science Major Award.....	Alysa Adams
Mario Mion Political Science Honors Scholarship Award.....	Nathaniel Petallar
Master of Public Administration Award.....	Haley Bacon
Student of Excellence - Criminology Award.....	Lendasia Hall
Student of Excellence Award.....	Kaylan Moudy

Presented by Professor & Chair Kimberly Gill

Department of Biology

Cellular & Molecular Biology Award.....	Kyla Brown
Biology Education Award.....	Torie Hartis
George Stanton Biology Award.....	Collin Miller
Organismic Biology Award.....	Frederick Brinkley
Ecological & Evolutionary Biology Award.....	Mitdalia Alonso
Student of Excellence Award.....	Collin Miller

Presented by Professor & Chair Monica Frazier

Department of Chemistry

Outstanding Freshman Chemistry Major Award.....John Drew
Excellence in Chemistry Research Award.....Emily Knox
Student of Excellence Award.....Apoorva Kollaram

Presented by Professor & Chair Floyd Jackson

Department of Earth and Space Sciences

Geology Award.....Caroline Hampton
Astronomy Award.....William Morgan
Physics Award.....Christopher Swafford
Environmental Science Award.....Gaibriel Robinson
Robotics Student Award.....Jessica Cegarra Arraiz
Student of Excellence Award.....Jessica Cegarra Arraiz
Student of Excellence Award-MS NS Environmental Sciences Track.....Mary Claire Streat
Student of Excellence Award-MS NS Geosciences Track.....Ivy Do
Student of Excellence Award-MS Robotics Engineering.....Cynthia Lopez-Jordan

Presented by Professor & Chair Troy Keller

Department of Mathematics

Outstanding Mathematics Student Award.....Ben Garrett
Calculus Award.....Jacob Chardos
Student of Excellence Award (Mathematics).....Kyler Wehrenberg
Student of Excellence Award (Data Science).....Nikki Johnson
Student of Excellence Award (Applied Mathematics).....Bianca Hampel

Presented by Professor & Chair William Muse

Department of Psychology

Psychology Academic Achievement Award Abigail Akerson
Student of Excellence AwardMadison Reed

Presented by Associate Professor & Interim Chair Jonathan Meyers

Department of Military Science

Military Science Award..... Tyler Fleming
ROTC Cadet Excellence Award.....Hunter Strayer

Presented by XO/ Assistant Professor MAJ Phillip Clark, III

Honors College Awards

Interdisciplinary Studies Award..... Ma'Lon Lane
Scholarly Activities in Fine and Performing Arts Award.....Amanda Byars
Scholarly Activities in Humanities Award.....Sal Woessner
Scholarly Activities in Professional Studies Award.....Celeste Grantham
Scholarly Activities in Science Award.....Sam Kimball
Scholarly Activities in Social Science Award.....Jarrett Huckaby

Presented by Professor & Dean Cindy Ticknor

Presentation of Honor Cords

**Presented by Professor & Dean Cindy Ticknor
and Dr. Stuart Rayfield**

Honors Societies Recognition

Recognition of Honors and Academic Societies

Honoris Causa Phi Kappa Phi
Members are asked to stand as each society is recognized.

University Awards

Academic Recognition Award..... Dr. Stuart Rayfield

Educator of the Year Award..... Ahmad Djigal, Vice President
Student Government Association

Dr. Kerri Taylor

Faculty Cup Award.....Dr. Shannon Campbell, Provost and Chief Academic Officer

Closing Remarks.....Dr. Kerri Taylor

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You are invited to a reception immediately following the ceremony.
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Special Thanks for Your Contribution:

Synovus Bank
Columbus State University Student Government Association
Columbus State University Office of Student Affairs

Dr. Rajeev Dabke has been teaching chemistry at CSU since 2002 and is known for making science fun, hands-on, and inclusive. His teaching blends real-world application with student-centered activities—from using LEGO bricks to teach the periodic table to creating chemistry modules for visually impaired students. Even during the COVID-19 pandemic, he adapted labs to be interactive using document cameras and everyday items.

Dr. Dabke has mentored more than 30 undergraduate researchers, with many publishing or presenting their work at national conferences. His engaging style (which often includes chemistry jokes and magic tricks) and commitment to accessible learning have earned him recognition through awards, grants, and media features. He continues to support student success through teaching, research, and community outreach.

Dr. Lawrence “Larry” Dooley, is the Chair of the Department of Theatre and Dance and has been at CSU since 2010. He teaches theatre history, playwriting, script analysis, and acting, and regularly mentors both undergraduate and graduate students. His research focuses on early 18th-century British theatre, and he’s led seminars on topics like “Theatre of Protest” and “Anti-theatricalism.”

In addition to teaching, Dr. Dooley has directed more than a dozen mainstage productions, including a recent collaboration with the Schwob School of Music on *Into the Woods*. He also served as Interim Dean of the College of the Arts. A dedicated educator and leader, he’s committed to fostering student creativity and building a strong performing arts community at CSU.

Dr. Kristen Hansen served in many roles during her time at CSU, including Professor of Horn, Assistant Director of Academics, and advisor to countless music majors. She taught a wide range of courses in music theory, history, and performance and directed ensembles like the CSU Horn Choir and Baroque Consortium. She led multiple study abroad trips, including to Oxford, Paris, and Denmark, and helped create unique student opportunities in performance and research.

Her projects connected students with the community, like the long-running “Music and Tea” lecture-recital series and a historically-informed recreation of a 1613 play involving over 50 students. Though she has retired from full-time teaching, she continues to teach online courses and serves as organist and choir director at a Nashville church, where she recently led performances of *Messiah* and will perform a Mozart concerto in May.

Dr. Daewoo Lee is an Associate Professor in the School of Policy, Justice, and Public Safety. Originally from South Korea, Dr. Lee earned his master’s in international relations from Johns Hopkins University and his Ph.D. in public policy from Indiana University. His teaching at CSU spans political science and public administration, and his research focuses on U.S. politics, comparative government, and the politics of East Asia—especially how meritocracy shapes political views.

His work has been published in journals like *Social Justice Research* and *Asia Pacific Journal of Public Administration*, where one of his articles earned Best Article of the Year in 2020. Dr. Lee brings both global insight and a thoughtful, engaging presence to the classroom.

Dr. Katrin Meidell is an internationally active violist, teacher, and speaker. Her career has taken her across the U.S. and abroad to countries like Finland, Poland, Brazil, and New Zealand. She's been published in respected journals like *American String Teacher* and the *Journal of the American Viola Society*, and she played a key role in organizing the 2022 American Viola Society Festival and International Viola Congress. Currently, she serves as Secretary for the American Viola Society and sits on the ASTA Health and Wellness Committee, helping musicians stay healthy in their careers.

Dr. Meidell is an Associate Professor of Viola at the Schwob School of Music, where she teaches and mentors students at all levels. She holds degrees from Boston University, New England Conservatory, and the University of North Texas. When she's not teaching or performing, she enjoys traveling, being outdoors, and knitting.

Faculty Cup Award

2024-2025 Nominees

Kennedy Buckner, is an English major and Honors College student whose academic excellence, leadership, and creative scholarship set her apart. She has presented her research across the state and completed a prestigious summer fellowship through the Leadership Alliance Mellon Initiative at the University of Virginia. On campus, Kennedy has served as Vice President of Sigma Tau Delta, President of the Black Student Union, and Press Secretary for SGA. She also founded a library of African American texts and has contributed to publications like *The Uproar* and *Arden*. Kennedy's passion for literature, advocacy, and scholarship continues to inspire her peers and professors alike.

Tyler Fleming, an Interdisciplinary Studies major and outstanding ROTC cadet who exemplifies the values of discipline, integrity, and leadership. Throughout his time at CSU, he has balanced the demands of military training and academic success with steady commitment and personal accountability. Tyler is the kind of leader who leads by example, earning the respect of both faculty and peers through his character, reliability, and service. His contributions have left a lasting impact, and his future in leadership is just beginning.

Jarrett Huckaby is an Earth and Space Science major with a concentration in Secondary Education and a minor in Mathematics. As part of the UTeach program, he brings a strong blend of scientific curiosity and teaching innovation to his work in the classroom. He has presented research at Tower Day and the Georgia Collegiate Honors Conference, and serves as an apprentice teacher at Harris County High School. An Honors College scholar and active campus leader, Jarrett is committed to making science accessible, engaging, and meaningful for future generations.

Anna LaBarbera is a History major with a concentration in Secondary Education who brings energy, leadership, and purpose to everything she does. A standout in the classroom and on the women's soccer team, Anna is known for her thoughtful insights, collaborative spirit, and drive to make a difference. She helped relaunch CSU's internship program with the National Infantry Museum, where she developed K-12 curriculum materials and led tours for new Army recruits. Her work ethic, compassion, and ability to lead by example make her an exceptional representative of CSU.

Lillian Patterson is a General Business major with a concentration in International Business and minors in Spanish and Accounting. She has distinguished herself through academic excellence, internships with firms like Grant Thornton, and active involvement on campus as a Turner College of Business Ambassador, Collegiate Math Coach, and Honoris Causa officer. Lillian has studied abroad in Spain and France, volunteered with organizations such as Girls Inc. and the Salvation Army, and consistently demonstrates integrity, compassion, and leadership in all she does.

Honor Cord Recipients

Josh Adams
Amanda Byars
Marcos Falck
Celeste Grantham

Jarrett Huckaby
Kangin Joo
Apoorva Kollaram
Ma'Lon Lane

Yasmin Mezayek
Collin Miller
Alyssa Schmitz
Cassidy Fine

Honor Society Inductees

Phi Kappa Phi

Sarah E. Braswell
Rachael E. Turner

Stephen B. Moore
Tasha N. Morman

Honoris Causa

Haley Adams
Kathy Aguilar
Camille Ahumada
Makayla Apperson
Michael Bediako
Camille Benjamin
Rose Bineau
Sophia Bledsoe
Caroline Bolick
Kristopher Bond
Sutton Boone
Hunter Bowen
Miles Bridges
Lindsey Britt
Lucy Brooks
Abigail Bullock
Zachary Burns
Feshuna Calloway
Anitra Carter
Abel Clark
Jayden Conger
Riley Cooper
Ryann Corey
Alejandro Corredor Cotrino
Jordan Currie

George Dayvolt
Maria Daza Noguera
Nicholas Deaton
John Drew
Sophie Earwood
Tahkea Fields
Madison Frady
Alma Galli
Zackery Gardner
Jozyln Gauthier
Charity Gilmore
Merlin Mae Gonzales
Katelyn Goodroe
Natalia Gresham
Kristen Hamilton
Amy Hernandez
Austin Horne
Lisa Howe
Ciara Huntley
William Jimenez Veras
Alyssa Johnson
Robert Johnson
Aniyah Jones
Reagan Kelley
Hannah King

Ayden Knighton
Jillianne Larkin
Brian Lawyer
Lana Ledford
Daru Li
Chassidy Lock
Michael Lucas
Miguel Marshall
Alyssa Maze
Grace McMillen
Manuel Medellin
Olivia Mezzaline
Catherine Miller
Clayton Minix
Kinsley Mitchell
Sanaa Mitchell
Nathan Mobley
Shan Momin
Riley Munoz
Ajai Myles
Jamie Neal
Kaydence Nix
Enoch Oluwaniyi
Nekayla Owens
Nathyn Patrick

Avi Polk
Nathan Prince
Robert Ralston
Kendal Redding
Shy'Meria Riley
Ian Robinson
Farah Safawi
Eliana Scott
Ada Sellers
Imani Vinson
Tyler Ward
Journi Washington
Alexa Weiss

Whitley Sikes
Emily Smith
Leah Smith
Tavisty Smith
Elijah Starkey
Kaeleah Steinsberger
Garret Stephenson
Croft Stone
Maddox Tallant
Anna White
Brianna White
Sebastian Wiley
Anna Williams

Katherine Tante
Kaili Thomason
Carmen Tobon Villanueva
Nora Torgerson
Rakshitha Trichuri
Asia Trippett
Andres Urbina
Aubree Ussery
Jadyn Villegas
KaraLynn Williams
Emma Wilson
Brandon Worth



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