



MSUSM
DENVER

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.
Peace Breakfast

January 13, 2023

LIBERATION
THROUGH EDUCATION:

DECOLONIZING
SYSTEMS OF
POWER



SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Black National Anthem
“Lift Every Voice and Sing”

Welcome and Land and Labor Acknowledgment

University Remarks

Keynote
Carlotta Walls LaNier

MLK Peace Awards
Allison Cotton, Ph.D.
Miguel Huerta
Gregor Mieder
Dwinita Mosby Tyler, Ph.D.
Mariana Pascual Miranda

Closing Remarks

We Shall Overcome



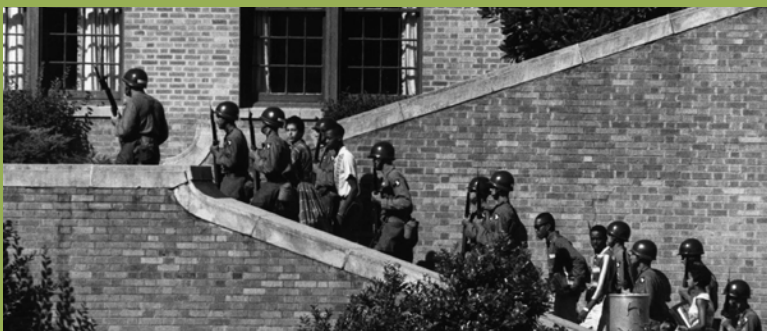
Carlotta Walls LaNier

In 1957, fourteen-year-old Carlotta Walls was the youngest Little Rock Nine member to integrate Central High School. She and eight other Black students faced angry mobs, racist elected officials, and federal intervention by President Dwight D. Eisenhower, who was forced to send in the 101st Airborne to escort the Nine safely into the building. Little did she realize that day that this was the beginning of a journey that would challenge prevailing attitudes, break down barriers, and forever change the social landscape of America. Overcoming her initial need to forget her turbulent past, Carlotta Walls LaNier has told her dramatic story for the first time in *A Mighty Long Way: My Journey to Justice at Little Rock Central High School*. An adaptation of the book for young readers is scheduled for publication in early 2023.

As the youngest of the Little Rock Nine and piece of living legacy, Ms. LaNier connects and encourages her audience, whether in-person or virtually, to pay attention to the lessons of history and to stay vigilant in fighting for equality.

A sought-after lecturer, Carlotta has spoken all over the country at colleges and universities, women's and African American organizations, libraries and civic groups.

After graduating from Little Rock Central High School in 1960, Carlotta Walls attended Michigan State University and graduated from Colorado State College—now the University of Northern Colorado, which has awarded her an Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters and on whose board of trustees she sits. In addition to receiving the Congressional Gold Medal and the NAACP's Spingarn Medal, awarded to her as a member of the Little Rock Nine, Carlotta Walls LaNier is an inductee in the Colorado Women's Hall of Fame, Girl Scouts Women of Distinction, the National Women's Hall of Fame, and serves as president of the Little Rock Nine Foundation, created to promote equality of opportunity for all, particularly in the field of education.



PEACE AWARDS



“Education must enable one to sift and weigh evidence, to discern the true from the false, the real from the unreal, and the facts from the fiction.”

– Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Allison Cotton, Ph.D.

Allison M. Cotton, Ph.D. is a Professor of Criminal Justice and Criminology at MSU Denver. A Colorado native, born in Boulder, Colorado while her father was finishing law school at CU-Boulder, Dr. Cotton received a B.A. degree in Sociology from the University of Colorado at Boulder in 1991, a M.A. degree in Sociology from Howard University in Washington, D.C. in 1995, and a Ph.D. in Sociology from the University of Colorado at Boulder in 2002.

Dr. Cotton’s research and teaching curiosities range in subject from homicide and the death penalty to wrongful convictions and eye-witness identifications to issues around race, class, gender and crime,

specifically women and homicide. She has authored several books. Dr. Cotton is a member of the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences and the American Society of Criminology. She is a sought-after public speaker on issues of race, class, gender and crime. She’s won several national awards for her teaching and scholarship in criminology, is a two-time Fulbright scholar, and served as a board member of the Colorado Fulbright Foundation.

Dr. Cotton has additionally served as a member of the Board of Directors for the American Civil Liberties Union of Colorado and is an active member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., Colorado Springs Alumnae Chapter.

PEACE AWARDS



Miguel Huerta

Miguel Huerta is proud to be serving the Roadrunners of MSU Denver. As a Chicano who was born and raised in Denver, he is thrilled to be home after 6 years of working and living in Philadelphia.

Miguel attained a Master of Social Work from the University of Pennsylvania and holds a certificate in Trauma Informed Practices from Bryn Mawr School of Social Work. Miguel was the first college graduate in his family with a bachelor's in Psychology from the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs. In 2014, Miguel became a founding member of the Board of Directors for the Move Mountains Project in San Luis, Colorado. Miguel is an alum of the New Leaders Council and a Philadelphia Fellow of the League of Creative Interventionists. This poet aspires to catalyze self-empowerment and community action through art and an understanding of human heritage.



Gregor Mieder

Born and raised in East Germany, Gregor Mieder moved to the U.S. when he was 21 years old. Over the past two decades, he has lived in Wisconsin, Georgia, and Colorado. He has worked with immigrant and refugee communities since 2007, when he began to volunteer and teach English in Madison, Wisconsin.

He has since earned a Master of Arts in Applied Linguistics, taught English language development courses, worked in grant and program development, and currently coordinates the Immigrant Services Program at Metropolitan State University of Denver.

PEACE AWARDS



“I have the audacity to believe that peoples everywhere can have three meals a day for their bodies, education, and culture for their minds, dignity, equality, and freedom for their spirits.”

– Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Dwinita Mosby Tyler, Ph.D.

Dwinita Mosby Tyler, Ph.D. is the Chief Catalyst and Founder of The Equity Project, LLC, an organization designed to support organizations and communities in building diversity, equity and inclusion strategies. She also founded The HR Shop, LLC, a human resources firm designed to support non-profits and small businesses.

She is the former Senior Vice President and Chief Inclusion Officer for Children’s Hospital Colorado; also the first African American woman to hold that position in the organizations 100+ year history. In addition, she’s held the title as the Executive Director of the Office of Human Resources for the City and County of Denver, again being the first African

American woman to hold that position in the 63+ year history of the agency.

Mosby Tyler, a consultant accredited by the Georgetown University National Center for Cultural Competence and recipient of the Cornell University Diversity & Inclusion certification, is nationally recognized for her equity work with non-profit, community, government and corporate organizations.

Mosby Tyler holds a doctorate in the field of Organizational Leadership, a Master of Arts degree in Management and a Bachelor of Science degree in Education.

PEACE AWARDS



“True peace is not merely the absence of tension; it is the presence of justice.”

– Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Mariana Pascual-Miranda

Mariana Pascual-Miranda was born in Toluca, Mexico and was raised in Colorado Springs, Colorado. Through her own lived experience as an immigrant and seeing the experiences of the people in her community, it made her want to pursue a career that would allow her to help those who face hardships. These experiences have inspired her to want to become a helping professional. Her senior year of high school, she was awarded the DREAM.US scholarship which allowed her to pursue higher education. In 2019, she moved to Denver to study at MSU Denver to get her Bachelor of Science in Social Work and is graduating at the end of this semester.

Currently, she serves as a First Generation Student Coordinator as well as a Research Assistant in the Social Work Department. In Mariana’s four years of being in Denver, she has expanded her horizons to do engagement, community outreach and organizing with numerous nonprofits, organizations, and coalitions. From providing helping efforts with the homeless population, her LGBTQ+ community, women, children, refugees, immigrants, and coalition work to fight for social justice—all of these areas that she has worked with have had the same goal of enhancing people’s way of living through advocacy and community building.

PAST AWARDEES

2022 Award Recipients

Katia Campbell, Ph.D.
Ally Garcia, Ph.D.
Bee Harris
Soj Sirivanchai

2021 Award Recipients

Vincent Cervantes
Chalane Lechuga, Ph.D.
Alejandra Merjil

2020 Award Recipients

Rosemarie Allen, Ed.D.
Cynthia Baron, Ed.D.
Andrea Borrego, Ph.D.
Bridgette Coble, Ph.D.
Khadijatu Fofanah
Hsiu-Ping Liu, Ph.D.
Eneri “Netty” Rodriguez

2019 Award Recipients

Welton Flemon Ph.D.
Rebecca Hunter Dobbin
Rev. Tammy Garrett-Williams
Virginia Castro

2018 Award Recipients

Anitha Jones
Kathryn Young, Ph.D.

2017 Award Recipients

Aaron Brown, Ph.D.
Elizabeth “Renee” Fajardo, J.D.
Madison Holloway, Ph.D. (posthumous)
Stephen M. Jordan, Ph.D.
Maria Rangel Leon

2016 Award Recipients

Aaron Futrell
Sandra Haynes, Ph.D.
Althea Redd (posthumous)

2015 Award Recipients

Zachary Berger
Katherine Miller
Arthur Jones, Ph.D.

2014 Award Recipients

Jennine Jeffries
Alton Clark
Rudy Gonzales

2013 Award Recipients

Ramon Del Castillo, Ph.D.
Mary Hanewall
Mahdyeh Hosseini Nowkhandan

2012 Award Recipients

Candace Johnson
Lisa Ingarfield
Bennie Williams
Marie Louise Anderson Greenwood

2011 Award Recipients

Opalanga Pugh
Aaron Smith
Mary Ann Watson, Ph.D.
Gerie Grimes

2010 Award Recipients

Marziya Kaka
Gloria Burns
AnnJanette Alejano-Steele, Ph.D.
John Parvensky
Leon Kelly

2009 Award Recipients

Lavanda Conner
Savannah Powell
Lucas Shamala, Ph.D.
Cleo Parker Robinson

2008 Award Recipients

Phyllis Bigpond
Vern Howard
Larry Johnson, Ph.D.
Wayne Marshall

2007 Award Recipients

Lupe Martinez, Ph.D.
Win Naing
Rev. James Peters

2006 Award Recipients

Nick Delmonico
Erin Durban
Anthony J. Garcia
Ruth Yamauchi

2005 Award Recipients

Jacquelyn Benton
Nita Gonzales
James “Justice” Jackson

2004 Award Recipients

Art Campa, Ph.D.
Mildred Freeney-Hilton
Ronald M. Knights, Ph.D.
Angelo Van Fleet

2003 Award Recipients

Erika Church
Brother Jeff Fard
Luis Torres, Ph.D.

2002 Award Recipients

Skip Crownhart
Bill Hosokawa
Hektor Munoz

2001 Award Recipient

Pauline Reece

2000 Award Recipients

Addison “Spike” Adams
Brenda Mosby

1999 Award Recipients

Fannie Fiddmont, Ph.D.
Grizel Gonzales
Gayle Johnson
Percy A. Morehouse Jr., Ph.D.

PAST AWARDEES

1998 Award Recipients

Walter R. Echo-Hawk
Teresa Harper
Robert Hazan, Ph.D.

1997 Award Recipients

Abelardo “Lalo” Delgado
Yolanda Ortega-Ericksen
Mark Ramsey
Gwendolyn Thomas, Ph.D.

1996 Award Recipients

Essie Garrett
Rev. Marshall Gourley
Alfonso Suazo
Tara Tull

1995 Award Recipients

Margie Ball Cook, Ph.D.
Rev. Clyde J. Miller
Thomas Rauch
Megan Reyes

1994 Award Recipients

Glenn Morris, Ph.D.
Joe Navarro
Arthur Branscombe
Bea Sutton Branscombe
Akbarali Thobhani, Ph.D.

1993 Award Recipients

Jody Andrade
Vincent Harding, Ph.D.
Rosemarie Freeney Harding
C.J. White, Ph.D.

1992 Award Recipients

Rodolfo “Corky” Gonzales
Hon. Wilma J. Webb

BLACK NATIONAL ANTHEM

Often referred to as “The Black National Anthem,” *Lift Every Voice and Sing* was a hymn written as a poem by NAACP leader James Weldon Johnson in 1900. His brother, John Rosamond Johnson (1873-1954), composed the music for the lyrics.

Lift every voice and sing,
‘Til earth and heaven ring,
Ring with the harmonies of Liberty;
Let our rejoicing rise
High as the 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 ‘til 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,
‘Til 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 has brought us thus far on the
way;
Thou who has 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,
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.

WE SHALL OVERCOME

“*We Shall Overcome*” is generally associated with the African American civil rights movement (1955–68) as a protest song and anthem of the movement. However, the song has deep roots. The lyrics are derived from a gospel song, “*I’ll Overcome Some Day*,” by Charles Tindley.

We shall overcome
We shall overcome
We shall overcome some day

CHORUS

Oh, deep in my heart
I do believe
We shall overcome some day

We shall all be free
We shall all be free
We shall all be free some day

CHORUS

We shall overcome
We shall overcome
We shall overcome some day

CHORUS

HONORING THE LIFE OF KAREN THORPE

Karen Thorpe, Ph.D., former assistant vice president of Student Affairs and dean of Student Life at Metropolitan State University of Denver, died at her home in Denver on Oct. 28 at age 72.

Thorpe spearheaded the creation of MSU Denver's annual MLK Peace Breakfast and is remembered by friends and family as a kind, loving person who made everyone happier when she walked into a room.

A career in higher education took Thorpe to several colleges, including Loretto Heights College and—then named—Metropolitan State College of Denver. During her time at MSU Denver, Thorpe was instrumental in organizing the inaugural MLK Peace Breakfast held on Jan. 15, 1992. The event brought together fifty people from across campus and the Denver community to commemorate the life and legacy of Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. More than 30 years later, Thorpe's impact on the University endures through this annual January celebration.

Known for her generous spirit, Thorpe was a longtime member of the First Baptist Church of Denver, where she sang in the choir, volunteered at the homeless shelter, counseled others and made lifetime friends. Her interests and passions included playing guitar, dancing, decorating for the holidays, spending time in the great outdoors, traveling



throughout the U.S. and going on cruises with her partner.

Forced into early retirement after being diagnosed with scleroderma and later breast cancer, Thorpe embodied her mother's mantra, "Never give up." She remained a rock for her loved ones, even when her own challenges were daunting. On her final day, Thorpe tried hooking up a new printer so she could write to loved ones, letting them know how much they meant to her. She didn't get the chance, but they knew.

Thorpe is survived by her spouse, Kathye Thomas; sisters Becky and Mary Ann; brothers Fred, Joe and Andy; her nieces and nephews; the world's greatest friends; and Graysea, the gray and white cat who will sorely miss her lap.

DENVER MARADE

MSU Denver will participate in the Denver Marade on **Monday, January 16, 2023**, starting in City Park.

The program will begin at 9:30 a.m. and the marching portion will begin at 10:45 a.m.

MSU Denver participants will form our group at 9:30 a.m. on the east side of the MLK Statue in City Park. Please visit the MLK website for additional details.

www.msudenver.edu/mlk-breakfast

Program Design by
Madison S. Faulkner

