

# JUNETEENTH 2026

*Scholarship Gala Award Dinner*

*Ad Journal*

Theme:

*Stay The Course*



Presented by

FAITH, HOPE, AND PROSPERITY

NIAGARA  
UNITED VISION, INC.

DoubleTree Hotel  
401 Buffalo Avenue  
Niagara Falls, NY 14303

June 7, 2026 5PM

# PROGRAM

## **Mistress Of Ceremony**

Ms. Taylor Anthony

## **Welcome and Grace**

Maurice Cox

## **Dinner**

## **Reading of Proclamation**

Christopher McKimmie 3rd District Legislator

## **Introduction of Candidates**

Mr. Ronald Bennett Jr

Ms. Amyah Cowart

Ms. Qierra Nicole Gregory

Mr. Michael Taylor

## **Inspirational Reading**

Mr. James Tony Riley

## **Song**

The Greatest Love of All... Cleo Brazil

## **Introduction of the Panel**

Pastor Makeeta Brooks

Mr. Anthony Ceasor

Ms. Renae Kimble

## **Parent Student Parent Dance Contestants**

## **Questions to the Students Panel**

## **Introduction of Guest Speaker**

Rev. Gene Coplin

## **Presentation of Scholarships**

## **Closing Remarks**

**SAVE THE DATE**

**JUNE 6, 2027**

# GUESTSPEAKER



**REV. GENE COPLIN JR.**

**REVEREND GENE COPLIN JR. HOLDS A DEGREE IN COUNSELING AND COMMUNITY SERVICES FROM EMPIRE STATE COLLEGE AND IS THE FOUNDER AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER OF PROJECT L.E.E. MINISTRIES INC. HE IS THE DEVELOPER OF THE WISDOM IN TROUBLED TIMES (WITT) PROGRAMS AND THE SPEAK LIFE TWICE ENCOUNTER WORKSHOPS, BOTH OF WHICH ARE CURRENTLY IMPLEMENTED IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS IN BUFFALO AND NIAGARA FALLS. EVALUATIONS BASED ON WRITTEN TESTIMONIES FROM STUDENTS AND TEACHERS, ALONG WITH SUPPORTING SCHOOL DATA, AFFIRM THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THESE INITIATIVES. HIS PROGRAMS HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO INCREASED GRADUATION RATES, DECREASED SCHOOL SUSPENSIONS, AND THE PROMOTION OF HEALTHY MENTAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT AMONG YOUTH.**

**REVEREND COPLIN IS ALSO THE HOST OF THE WEEKDAY RADIO PROGRAM "SEVERAL SACRED SECRETS OF SUCCESS," AIRING ON WUFO 1080 AM AND 96.5 FM EACH MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY AT 7:55 A.M.**

**IN 2010, REVEREND COPLIN WAS INDUCTED INTO THE BUFFALO MUSIC HALL OF FAME. AS TEENAGERS, HE AND HIS BROTHER BOB PRODUCED ORIGINAL MUSIC IN BUFFALO AND GAINED RECOGNITION FROM SEVERAL MAJOR FILM PRODUCERS. THEIR WORK CAUGHT THE ATTENTION OF TYLER PERRY, WHO SELECTED ONE OF THEIR SONGS FOR HIS FILM WHY DID I GET MARRIED TOO?**

**REVEREND COPLIN SERVES AS AN ELDER AT ZION DOMINION GLOBAL MINISTRIES IN AMHERST, NEW YORK, UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF BISHOP RODERICK L. HENNINGS. HE IS MARRIED TO HIS LOVELY WIFE, JUANITA COPLIN, AND TOGETHER THEY SHARE SIX WONDERFUL CHILDREN.**

**ERICK L HENNINGS.**

# HONOREES



**RONALD BENNETT JR.**

I AM AN 18-YEAR-OLD STUDENT AT NIAGARA FALLS HIGH SCHOOL, WHERE I AM EXPECTED TO GRADUATE ON JUNE 25, 2026. BEYOND THE CLASSROOM, I HAVE DEVELOPED A STRONG WORK ETHIC AND AN ENTREPRENEURIAL MINDSET THROUGH EMPLOYMENT, INDEPENDENT RESEARCH, AND SMALL BUSINESS VENTURES. IN MY FREE TIME, I ENJOY OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES, GOING TO THE GYM, AND EXPLORING PRACTICAL WAYS TO BUILD FINANCIAL INDEPENDENCE, INCLUDING RESELLING CLOTHING, FRAGRANCES, AND ACCESSORIES.

WITH LIMITED RESOURCES BUT A STRONG DESIRE TO CREATE OPPORTUNITIES FOR MYSELF, I LAUNCHED A CLOTHING BRAND AND RELEASED A HOODIE THAT SOLD OUT WITHIN TWO DAYS. THAT EXPERIENCE GAVE ME CONFIDENCE IN MY CREATIVITY, INITIATIVE, AND ABILITY TO TURN AN IDEA INTO RESULTS. AT THE SAME TIME, MY FAMILY'S CIRCUMSTANCES REQUIRED ME TO PRIORITIZE IMMEDIATE FINANCIAL SUPPORT OVER LONG-TERM BUSINESS GROWTH. ALTHOUGH I EVENTUALLY STEPPED AWAY FROM THE BRAND, THE EXPERIENCE TAUGHT ME VALUABLE LESSONS ABOUT ENTREPRENEURSHIP, DECISION-MAKING, SACRIFICE, AND THE IMPORTANCE OF INVESTING WISELY IN FUTURE GOALS.

AS I CONTINUE EXPLORING COLLEGES AND CAREER PATHS, I HAVE DEVELOPED STRONG INTERESTS IN MECHANICAL ENGINEERING, CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT, BUSINESS, AND REAL ESTATE. I AM A HANDS-ON PERSON WHO ENJOYS BUILDING, REPAIRING, AND CREATING, AND I AM ESPECIALLY DRAWN TO CAREERS THAT COMBINE PRACTICAL SKILLS WITH LONG-TERM VISION. MY INTEREST IN REAL ESTATE BEGAN WITH AN APPRECIATION FOR WELL-DESIGNED HOMES AND GREW AS I LEARNED MORE ABOUT PROPERTY INVESTMENT, RENOVATION, SALES, AND BROKERAGE.

THE MORE I RESEARCH THESE FIELDS, THE MORE I RECOGNIZE THEIR COMPLEXITY, POTENTIAL, AND IMPACT. I AM MOTIVATED TO PURSUE OPPORTUNITIES THAT WILL ALLOW ME TO CONTINUE LEARNING, STRENGTHEN MY SKILLS, BUILD FINANCIAL STABILITY, AND CREATE A SUCCESSFUL FUTURE FOR MYSELF AND MY FAMILY.

# HONOREES



**AMAYAH COWART**

**AMAYAH COWART IS AN ACCOMPLISHED SCHOLAR-ATHLETE, SERVANT LEADER, AND COMMUNITY ADVOCATE IN THE NIAGARA FALLS HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 2026. SHE IS THE PROUD DAUGHTER OF ALLEN Q. COWART JR. AND FREDIA RA'CELLE HART-COWART, WHOSE GUIDANCE, FAITH, AND COMMITMENT TO EXCELLENCE HAVE HELPED SHAPE HER STRONG CHARACTER, DISCIPLINE, AND WORK ETHIC.**

**ACADEMICALLY, AMAYAH HAS DEMONSTRATED OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT WITH A 95.34 GPA AND HIGH HONOR ROLL STATUS SINCE 2022. RANKED AS SALUTATORIAN OF HER CLASS, SHE WILL GRADUATE WITH MORE THAN 30 COLLEGE CREDITS EARNED THROUGH ADVANCED PLACEMENT AND DUAL-ENROLLMENT COURSEWORK. HER ACADEMIC SUCCESS REFLECTS HER FOCUS, DETERMINATION, AND COMMITMENT TO EXCELLENCE.**

**AMAYAH IS ALSO A DEDICATED SCHOLAR-ATHLETE. SHE HAS COMPETED IN TRACK & FIELD SINCE 7TH GRADE AND CROSS COUNTRY SINCE 8TH GRADE. SHE IS A CURRENT SCHOOL RECORD HOLDER IN THE 4X800M RELAY, A SECTIONAL QUALIFIER IN THE PENTATHLON, 4X400M, AND 4X800M EVENTS, AND HAS BEEN RECOGNIZED AS A TOP 100 GIRLS VARSITY AAA RUNNER FOR THREE CONSECUTIVE YEARS. IN 2025, SHE WAS NAMED RUNNER OF THE YEAR AND QUALIFIED FOR THE NIAGARA FRONTIER LEAGUE CROSS COUNTRY ALL-STAR TEAM. SHE ALSO COMPETED IN BOWLING DURING HER FRESHMAN YEAR.**

**BEYOND ACADEMICS AND ATHLETICS, AMAYAH IS DEEPLY INVOLVED IN LEADERSHIP AND SERVICE. SHE IS ACTIVE IN THE HONOR SOCIETY, KEY CLUB, DECA, LEADERSHIP NIAGARA, THE STUDENT CHAMPION TEAM, AND THE BLACK EXCELLENCE YOUTH ENGAGEMENT PROGRAM. SHE SERVES ON THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR THE NATIONAL FEDERATION FOR JUST COMMUNITIES OF WESTERN NEW YORK AND EARNED THE TITLE OF MISS JABBERWOCK 2025, RAISING SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS TO SUPPORT STUDENTS PURSUING HIGHER EDUCATION.**

**HER SERVICE ALSO EXTENDS TO OPEN BUFFALO, NIAGARA FALLS HIGH SCHOOL EVENTS, LOCAL CLEAN-UP INITIATIVES, AND MOUNT ZION MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH. SHE IS EXPLORING A CAREER IN FORENSIC PSYCHOLOGY, WITH INTERESTS IN CYBERSECURITY AND ACCOUNTING, AND CONTINUES DEVELOPING AS A CONFIDENT, SERVICE-MINDED LEADER.**

# HONOREES



**QIERRA GREGORY**

**QIERRA IS A DEDICATED AND HIGH-ACHIEVING SENIOR AT NIAGARA FALLS HIGH SCHOOL WHO HAS CONSISTENTLY DEMONSTRATED ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE, LEADERSHIP, AND PERSONAL GROWTH.**

**THROUGHOUT HER HIGH SCHOOL CAREER, SHE HAS MAINTAINED HIGH HONORS AND HONORS STATUS EVERY SEMESTER FOR FOUR CONSECUTIVE YEARS, EARNING GRADE AVERAGES BETWEEN 90 AND 92. SHE HAS SHOWN PARTICULAR STRENGTH IN ACCELERATED ENGLISH, LANGUAGE ARTS, AND HISTORY.**

**IN DECEMBER 2025, QIERRA WAS NAMED A FALL SCHOLAR ATHLETE, AN HONOR AWARDED TO STUDENTS WHO MAINTAIN A 90 OR HIGHER GRADE POINT AVERAGE WHILE COMPETING IN VARSITY ATHLETICS. AS A MEMBER OF BOTH THE GIRLS' JUNIOR VARSITY AND VARSITY SOCCER TEAMS, SHE DEMONSTRATED DISCIPLINE, TEAMWORK, AND PERSEVERANCE ON AND OFF THE FIELD.**

**QIERRA IS ALSO ACTIVE IN HER SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY. SHE IS A MEMBER OF KEY CLUB, PARTICIPATES IN BOXING, AND BALANCES THESE COMMITMENTS WITH PART-TIME EMPLOYMENT. SHE VOLUNTEERS REGULARLY WITH THE NIAGARA COMMUNITY INFORMATION GROUP, INC., ASSISTING WITH MONTHLY COMMUNITY MEETINGS, AND WORKS WITH CHILDREN AGES 5 TO 13 AT PAL SOCCER CAMPS. SHE ALSO CONTRIBUTES TO HER SCHOOL COMMUNITY THROUGH SALES AND CUSTOMER SERVICE AT THE NIAGARA FALLS HIGH SCHOOL STORE.**

**FOCUSED ON HER FUTURE, QIERRA COMPLETED TWO YEARS IN THE NCTEC BOCES CONSERVATION PROGRAM, STUDYING NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT, WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT, SOIL SCIENCE, AND RELATED ENVIRONMENTAL DISCIPLINES. THIS EXPERIENCE CONNECTED HER WITH LOCAL CONSERVATION PROFESSIONALS AND STRENGTHENED HER COMMITMENT TO ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE AND CONSERVATION.**

**QIERRA IS ALSO WELL-ROUNDED IN THE ARTS, HAVING PLAYED BARITONE HORN IN THE SCHOOL BAND FOR THREE AND A HALF YEARS, PERFORMING AT COMMUNITY EVENTS AND COMPETITIONS. AFTER GRADUATION, SHE PLANS TO ATTEND SUNY NIAGARA FOR HORTICULTURE WITH A FOCUS ON CONSERVATION, THEN CONTINUE AT SUNY ESF TO PURSUE ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE AND FORESTRY.**

# HONOREES



**MICHAEL TAYLOR**

**MICHAEL TAYLOR IS A SENIOR AT NIAGARA FALLS HIGH SCHOOL AND A PROUD MEMBER OF THE CLASS OF 2026. AS A STUDENT PURSUING STUDIES IN BUSINESS, MICHAEL HAS SHOWN DEDICATION IN THE CLASSROOM WHILE ALSO BUILDING A STRONG REPUTATION THROUGH ATHLETICS, LEADERSHIP, AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT.**

**A COMMITTED STUDENT-ATHLETE, MICHAEL HAS REPRESENTED THE NIAGARA FALLS WOLVERINES IN BASKETBALL, TRACK, AND FOOTBALL. HE IS BEST KNOWN FOR HIS LEADERSHIP AS THE VARSITY FOOTBALL QUARTERBACK, WHERE HE DEMONSTRATES DISCIPLINE, CONFIDENCE, TEAMWORK, AND THE ABILITY TO PERFORM UNDER PRESSURE. HIS ATHLETIC JOURNEY BEGAN AT A YOUNG AGE THROUGH LOCAL YOUTH FOOTBALL ORGANIZATIONS, INCLUDING THE CATARACT, HURRICANES, AND VIPERS BIDDY FOOTBALL LEAGUES.**

**MICHAEL LATER COMPETED AT A REGIONAL LEVEL WITH THE ELITE BUFFALO KIDS TRAVELING FOOTBALL TEAM. HIS HARD WORK, SKILL, AND STRONG PERFORMANCES EARNED HIM THE TITLE OF EASTERN DIVISION MVP, AN ACHIEVEMENT THAT REFLECTS HIS COMPETITIVE SPIRIT AND COMMITMENT TO GROWTH.**

**LOOKING AHEAD, MICHAEL PLANS TO PURSUE A DEGREE IN SPORTS MANAGEMENT, COMBINING HIS PASSION FOR ATHLETICS WITH HIS INTEREST IN BUSINESS AND LEADERSHIP. HIS ULTIMATE DREAM IS TO PLAY FOOTBALL PROFESSIONALLY, BUT HE REMAINS GROUNDED IN HIS FAITH AND COMMITTED TO FOLLOWING WHEREVER GOD LEADS HIM.**

**BEYOND ATHLETICS, MICHAEL IS DEEPLY CONNECTED TO HIS COMMUNITY AND CHURCH. HE IS AN ACTIVE MEMBER OF ST. JOHN AME CHURCH, WHERE HE SERVES IN THE YOUNG PEOPLE'S AND CHILDREN'S DIVISION AND ON THE JUNIOR USHER BOARD. THESE EXPERIENCES HAVE STRENGTHENED HIS CHARACTER, FAITH, AND DESIRE TO SERVE OTHERS.**

**IN HIS FREE TIME, MICHAEL ENJOYS LISTENING TO MUSIC, WATCHING SPORTS, AND SPENDING QUALITY TIME WITH HIS FAMILY. DRIVEN BY FAITH, PURPOSE, AND LIFELONG LEARNING, MICHAEL IS READY TO EMBRACE NEW CHALLENGES AS HE PREPARES FOR A FUTURE IN SPORTS ADMINISTRATION AND ATHLETICS.**

# MISTRESS OF CEREMONY



**TAYLOR ANTHONY**

**TAYLOR ANTHONY IS A MULTIMEDIA JOURNALIST AT 7 NEWS IN BUFFALO. SHE JOINED THE WKBW TEAM IN SEPTEMBER OF 2024 AFTER RECEIVING HER MASTER'S DEGREE FROM NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY'S MEDILL SCHOOL OF JOURNALISM.**

**SHE WAS BORN AND RAISED IN MASSILLON, OHIO, NEIGHBORING CITIES WITH CANTON, OHIO, HOME OF THE PRO FOOTBALL HALL OF FAME.**

**TAYLOR ATTENDED JOHN CARROLL UNIVERSITY IN CLEVELAND WHERE SHE RECEIVED HER BACHELOR'S DEGREE IN DIGITAL MEDIA COMMUNICATION AND A MINOR IN SPANISH AND HISPANIC STUDIES. SHE WAS A SPRINTER ON JOHN CARROLL'S TRACK AND FIELD TEAM WHERE SHE WAS A TWO-TIME NCAA NATIONAL QUALIFIER AND RECEIVED NCAA ACADEMIC ALL-AMERICAN AND ALL-OAC HONORS.**

**DURING HER UNDERGRADUATE YEARS TAYLOR INTERNED WITH FOX 8 CLEVELAND, THE CNBC ASSIGNMENT DESK AND WAS SELECTED AS AN INTERNATIONAL RADIO & TELEVISION SOCIETY FELLOW (IRTS) IN NEW YORK CITY.**

**WHEN SHE IS NOT OUT REPORTING OR SPENDING TIME WITH HER FRIENDS AND FAMILY, SHE ENJOYS COOKING, FITNESS, MUSIC AND READING. SHE IS ALSO VERY PASSIONATE ABOUT THE ARTS AND LOVES GOING TO THEATRES TO WATCH MUSICALS. MOST RECENTLY, SHE HAS STARTED HER OWN PODCAST CALLED "WHERE YOU AT?", A PLATFORM TO EMPOWER AND INSPIRE YOUNG PROFESSIONALS AS THEY NAVIGATE THEIR LIFE AND CAREERS WHEREVER THEY'RE AT.**

**TAYLOR IS VERY EXCITED TO BEGIN HER BROADCASTING CAREER HERE IN BUFFALO AND LOOKS FORWARD TO CONTINUE AMPLIFYING THE COMMUNITY VOICES OF WESTERN NEW YORK!**

# INSPIRATIONAL READING



**JAMES TONY RILEY**

**JAMES “TONY” RILEY IS AN ACCOMPLISHED EDUCATIONAL LEADER, EDUCATOR, ENTREPRENEUR, AND DOCTORAL CANDIDATE WITH EXTENSIVE EXPERIENCE IN SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION, SPECIAL EDUCATION, CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT, AND STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT INITIATIVES.**

**AS FOUNDER OF GREEN TECH BUFFALO AND NIAGARA SCHOOLS, HE PROVIDES STRATEGIC LEADERSHIP FOCUSED ON INNOVATION, WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT, AND EXPANDING EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS AND COMMUNITIES. WITH ADVANCED DEGREES IN EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP AND ADMINISTRATION, INCLUDING AN ED.D.**

**IN PROGRESS, RILEY HAS SERVED AS A PRINCIPAL, PROGRAM DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT CHAIR, AND CLASSROOM TEACHER ACROSS NEW YORK, GEORGIA, AND WASHINGTON, D.C. HE IS RECOGNIZED FOR LEADING DATA-DRIVEN SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT EFFORTS, DEVELOPING INNOVATIVE PROGRAMS FOR AT-RISK YOUTH, STRENGTHENING INSTRUCTIONAL PRACTICES.**

**THROUGH PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT, AND FOSTERING POSITIVE SCHOOL CULTURES THAT PROMOTE ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE, EQUITY, AND STUDENT SUCCESS.**

# SONG

## THE GREATEST LOVE OF ALL



**CLEO BRAZIL**  
CHLOE LONG

**CLEO BRAZIL IS A VERSATILE VOCALIST AND COMMUNITY LEADER FROM NIAGARA FALLS, NY. THROUGH CHLOE LONG PRODUCTIONS AND PROJECT PHOENIX, AN EMPOWERMENT GROUP FOR WOMEN, SHE AMPLIFIES VOICES IN HER COMMUNITY. CLEO HAS PERFORMED AT WEDDINGS, FUNERALS, LOCAL AND STATE EVENTS, AND NOTABLY SANG THE NATIONAL ANTHEM AT MAYOR IRENE ELIA'S INAUGURATION. SHE IMPRESSED RECORD EXECUTIVES FROM CASH MONEY RECORDS AT A RECENT DIRECT TO THE CONNECT EVENT, AND YES, SHE'S GRACED THE ICONIC APOLLO THEATER STAGE. HER PERFORMANCES—WHETHER R&B, GOSPEL, ROCK AND ROLL, OR SPOKEN WORD—ALWAYS DELIVER UNITY AND EMPOWERMENT.**

# **PRESIDENT**

## **NIAGARA UNITED VISION**



**ARLENE JACKSON**

**BORN IN NIAGARA FALLS, NEW YORK, ARLENE JACKSON WAS RAISED IN A LOVING HOUSEHOLD BY THE LATE REVEREND RICH AND MARGARET JACKSON, WHERE FAITH, SERVICE, EDUCATION, AND COMMUNITY WERE INSTILLED IN HER FROM AN EARLY AGE.**

**ARLENE PURSUED HER PASSION FOR HELPING OTHERS AT ERIE COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE, MAJORING IN MENTAL HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE COUNSELING. SHE LATER EARNED A BACHELOR'S DEGREE IN SOCIAL WORK FROM NIAGARA UNIVERSITY AND A MASTER OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION FROM ARGOSY UNIVERSITY. SHE ALSO ACHIEVED LEAN SIX SIGMA BLACK BELT CERTIFICATION, USING HER EXPERTISE TO HELP LEAD COST-SAVING INITIATIVES THAT SAVED THE U.S. ARMY MILLIONS OF DOLLARS.**

**IN 1976, ARLENE ENLISTED IN THE U.S. ARMY RESERVES, BEGINNING A DISTINGUISHED 38-YEAR MILITARY CAREER. SHE ROSE TO THE RANK OF MASTER SERGEANT, SERVED AS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICER, AND COMPLETED SERVICE IN DESERT STORM AND OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM. HER LEADERSHIP HELPED HER UNIT EARN THE PRESTIGIOUS PHILLIP A. CONNELLY AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN FOOD SERVICE.**

**ALONGSIDE HER MILITARY SERVICE, ARLENE BUILT A MEANINGFUL CAREER IN SOCIAL WORK, COUNSELING, MENTORING, AND TRAINING, IMPACTING YOUTH, ADULTS, AND FAMILIES.**

**AFTER RETURNING HOME, SHE FOUNDED NIAGARA UNITED VISION, INC., A NONPROFIT COMMITTED TO RESTORING HOPE, FAITH, AND PROSPERITY IN THE COMMUNITY.**

**UNDER HER LEADERSHIP, THE ORGANIZATION HAS CREATED COMMUNITY GARDENS, AWARDED \$30,000 IN SCHOLARSHIPS THROUGH THE JUNETEENTH SCHOLARSHIP GALA, AND PROMOTED NEIGHBORHOOD REVITALIZATION.**

**ARLENE JACKSON'S LIFE REFLECTS FAITH, COURAGE, LEADERSHIP, AND SERVICE**

# EVENT CHAIR-PERSON



**PHYLLIS SANCHEZ**

**PHYLLIS SANCHEZ IS A DEDICATED COMMUNITY ADVOCATE WHOSE WORK CENTERS ON UPLIFTING YOUNG GIRLS AND HELPING THEM RECOGNIZE THEIR VALUE, PURPOSE, AND POTENTIAL IN LIFE. THROUGH HER STRONG COMMITMENT TO MENTORSHIP AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT, SHE HAS MADE A MEANINGFUL IMPACT BY ENCOURAGING CONFIDENCE, SELF-WORTH, AND PERSONAL GROWTH IN THE LIVES OF THOSE SHE SERVES. HER PASSION FOR EMPOWERING THE NEXT GENERATION CONTINUES TO INSPIRE FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES ALIKE. FOR THE PAST FIVE YEARS, SHE HAS DEVOTED HERSELF TO SUPPORTING THE EDUCATION OF LOCAL STUDENTS AND CONTRIBUTING TO COMMUNITY REVITALIZATION EFFORTS THROUGH NIAGARA UNITED VISION, INC. GUIDED AND STRENGTHENED BY HER FAVORITE BIBLE VERSE, PSALM 27—"THE LORD IS MY LIGHT AND MY SALVATION; WHOM SHALL I FEAR?"—SHE CONTINUES HER WORK WITH FAITH AND PURPOSE.**

# EVENT CO-CHAIR

**MABLE JACKSON-ROBINSON**



**MRS. MABLE JACKSON-ROBINSON IS A PROUD DAUGHTER OF NIAGARA FALLS AND A GRADUATE OF NIAGARA FALLS HIGH SCHOOL. SHE FURTHERED HER EDUCATION AT NIAGARA COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE, BUFFALO STATE UNIVERSITY URBAN CENTER, AND NIAGARA UNIVERSITY, WHERE SHE EARNED A MASTER'S DEGREE IN EDUCATION.**

**HER LIFE'S WORK HAS BEEN ROOTED IN SERVICE, EDUCATION, AND THE EMPOWERMENT OF YOUNG PEOPLE. SHE BEGAN HER CAREER WITH NIAGARA COUNTY COOPERATIVE EXTENSION AS AN INTER-CITY 4-H ACTIVITY COORDINATOR, SERVING YOUTH IN COMMUNITY AND DROP-IN CENTERS. THAT WORK HELPED SHAPE HER CALLING TO INSPIRE STUDENTS AND STRENGTHEN FAMILIES.**

**MRS. JACKSON-ROBINSON LATER JOINED THE NIAGARA FALLS SCHOOL DISTRICT AS AN INDEPENDENT STUDY ROOM MONITOR BEFORE BECOMING A FULL-TIME ENGLISH AND SOCIAL STUDIES TEACHER AT LASALLE JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL. SHE ALSO TAUGHT AT GASKILL JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL, NIAGARA FALLS ALTERNATIVE SCHOOL, AND NIAGARA FALLS HIGH SCHOOL, LEAVING A LASTING IMPACT ON GENERATIONS OF STUDENTS.**

**HER SERVICE CONTINUED AT NIAGARA COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE THROUGH THE STRUCTURED EDUCATION SUPPORT PROGRAM, WHERE SHE WORKED AS A CAREER EDUCATOR AND REMEDIAL INSTRUCTOR. HER HONORS INCLUDE TEACHER OF THE YEAR IN 1987 AT GASKILL JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL AND RECOGNITION IN WHO'S WHO AMONG AMERICA'S TEACHERS AND WHO'S WHO AMONG AMERICAN CLERGY MEMBERS.**

**SHE ALSO ORGANIZED THE GASKILL MIDDLE SCHOOL GOSPEL CHOIR, CO-COORDINATED THE CHARM AND MODELING CLUB, AND LED "LET'S CHANGE THOSE ATTITUDES," A STUDENT SELF-ESTEEM PROGRAM. NIAGARA UNITED VISION, INC. IS HONORED TO HAVE HER SERVING ON OUR TEAM.**

# INTRODUCTION OF THE PANEL



**REV. MAKEEDA E. BROOKS**

REV. MAKEEDA E. BROOKS IS CURRENTLY THE PASTOR OF ST. JOHN AME CHURCH, NIAGARA FALLS, NY.

REV. BROOKS IS ALSO THE VISIONARY FOUNDER OF “TAKE BACK NIAGARA INITIATIVE” (TBNI), WHICH IS AN INITIATIVE THAT WAS BIRTHED OUT OF THE CONCERN OF THE INCREASE IN VIOLENCE AND TO ADDRESS THE NEEDS OF THE PEOPLE/COMMUNITY OF NIAGARA FALLS. THIS INITIATIVE BRINGS TOGETHER UNITY LEADERS OF ALL FAITHS, LEADERS OF COMMUNITY, CIVIC, POLITICAL, AND BUSINESS LEADERS IN NIAGARA FALLS. THE PURPOSE OF TBNI IS TO PRAY, ADVOCATE, COLLABORATE, AND TO ADDRESS THE SOCIAL JUSTICE NEEDS OF THE COMMUNITY OF NIAGARA FALLS, NY. REV. BROOKS IS DEDICATED TO ADVOCATING AND EMPOWERING PEOPLE TO REACH THEIR FULL POTENTIAL.

REV. BROOKS’ FAVORITE SCRIPTURE IS TRUST IN THE LORD WITH ALL YOUR HEART AND LEAN NOT ON YOUR OWN UNDERSTANDING (PROVERBS 3: 5-6) AND LIVES BY THE MOTTO, “WHAT REALLY MATTERS IN YOUR LIFE IS THAT YOU MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN SOMEONE’S LIFE, AND THAT THE DIFFERENCE IMPACTS NOT ONLY YOU BUT EVERYONE AROUND YOU.”



**ANTHONY CEASOR**

ANTHONY CEASOR, A NATIVE OF EAST AMHERST, NEW YORK, WAS EDUCATED IN LOCAL WESTERN NEW YORK SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES. HE HAS BEEN HAPPILY MARRIED TO HIS WIFE, THERESA CEASOR, FOR 47 YEARS. TOGETHER, THEY HAVE THREE ADULT CHILDREN AND ONE GRANDDAUGHTER.

PROFESSIONALLY, ANTHONY WORKED FOR 18 YEARS WITH SHERWOOD DIVISION OF HARSCO AND CURRENTLY SERVES AS DIRECTOR OF HUMAN RESOURCES FOR SUN ORCHARD FRUIT CO., WHERE HE HAS WORKED FOR THE PAST 25 YEARS. ANTHONY HAS A LONG HISTORY OF COMMUNITY SERVICE AND LEADERSHIP. HE PREVIOUSLY SERVED AS TREASURER FOR THE NIAGARA FALLS NAACP, THE LOCKPORT YMCA BOARD OF DIRECTORS, GLEN OAKS CONDOMINIUMS, AND THE CAMP KENAN BOARD OF DIRECTORS. HE HAS ALSO BEEN A GUEST SPEAKER FOR LOCKPORT NEW BEGINNINGS YOUNG MEN AND WOMEN OF CHARACTER.

THROUGHOUT HIS YEARS OF SERVICE, ANTHONY HAS RECEIVED SEVERAL HONORS, INCLUDING THE OUTSTANDING VOLUNTARY SERVICE AWARD FROM THE LOCKPORT YMCA, THE LEADERSHIP AWARD FROM THE YMCA CAMP KENAN BOARD OF DIRECTORS, THE UTOPIAN EUPHORIA MEN OF INTEGRITY AWARD, AND THE CANISIUS UNIVERSITY ACADEMIC TALENT SEARCH AWARD.



**RENAE KIMBLE**

MS. RENAE KIMBLE IS A LIFELONG RESIDENT OF NIAGARA FALLS, NEW YORK, AND A DEDICATED ADVOCATE FOR VOTING RIGHTS, CIVIL RIGHTS, HUMAN RIGHTS, AND DISADVANTAGED COMMUNITIES THROUGHOUT NIAGARA COUNTY. SHE IS A GRADUATE OF NIAGARA COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE, THE UNIVERSITY AT BUFFALO, AND THE UNIVERSITY AT BUFFALO SCHOOL OF LAW.

A WOMAN OF MANY FIRSTS, MS. KIMBLE WAS THE FIRST WOMAN TO RUN FOR MAYOR OF NIAGARA FALLS IN 1991 AND THE FIRST AFRICAN AMERICAN WOMAN ELECTED TO POLITICAL OFFICE IN NIAGARA COUNTY AS A MEMBER OF THE NIAGARA COUNTY LEGISLATURE.

SHE CURRENTLY SERVES AS PRESIDENT OF THE NAACP NIAGARA FALLS BRANCH AND IS A SILVER LIFE AND SUBSCRIBING GOLD LIFE MEMBER OF THE NAACP. SHE IS ALSO THE CHIEF OF STRATEGIC ALLIANCES FOR WESTERN NY INDEPENDENT LIVING, INC. ORDAINED AS A MINISTER IN 2016, MINISTER KIMBLE IS GUIDED BY HER STRONG FAITH IN JESUS CHRIST AND A COMMITMENT TO SERVING OTHERS WITH COMPASSION, WISDOM, AND HUMILITY. SHE BELIEVES IN GIVING BACK TO THE COMMUNITY AND HAS SUPPORTED STUDENTS THROUGH SCHOLARSHIPS AND YEARS OF CIVIC SERVICE.

# \$5000.00 SCHOLARSHIP

FAITH, HOPE, AND PROSPERITY

## NIAGARA UNITED VISION, INC.

Niagara United Vision, Inc. is a community development nonprofit organization.



### MISSION

Seeking to build hope, faith, and prosperity, Niagara United Vision brings people together to develop safe and sustainable communities.



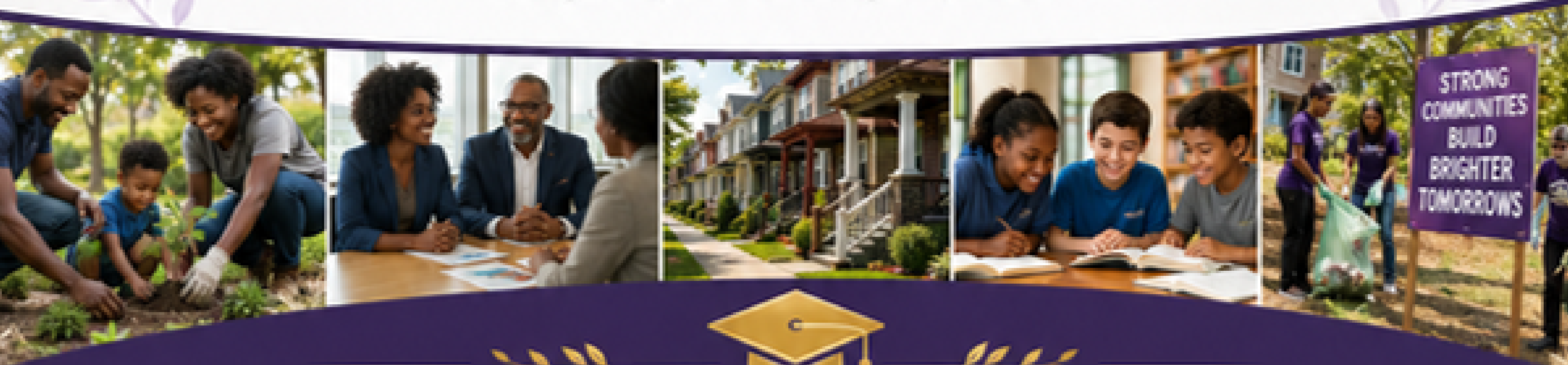
### OUR PRINCIPLES

- ✓ Demonstrate neighborly love.
- ✓ Reduce crime and poverty.
- ✓ Advocate for underserved communities.
- ✓ Promote dignity and respect.
- ✓ Support sustainable and transformative development.



### WHO WE ARE

Niagara United Vision partners with people in communities, universities, and local and government agencies to help build or improve the quality of life for citizens. With your support, Niagara United Vision strives to achieve the strength, stability, and independence individuals and communities need to build a better life for themselves and their neighbors. We work to decrease crime and poverty that inhibit the growth of community ownership. Education, healthy living, and creating safe spaces are among our priorities.



*Congratulations to Our*  
— 2026 —

**NIAGARA UNITED VISION, INC.**  
**SCHOLARSHIP AWARDEES**

FAITH | HOPE | PROSPERITY | STRONGER TOGETHER

🌿 \$2,500.00 SCHOLARSHIP 🌿

# NAACP Niagara Falls Branch

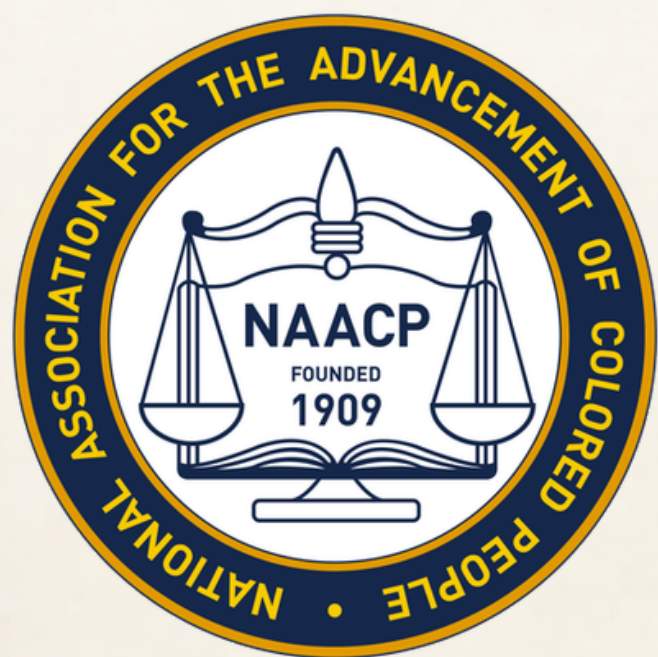
## *Education Scholarship for Civil Rights*

The recipient of the NAACP Niagara Falls Branch Education Scholarship for Civil Rights believes, as we do, that education is a fundamental civil right.

This scholarship recognizes a student who values equitable access to a well-rounded education, demonstrates academic excellence, and shows a strong commitment to civic engagement.

The honoree gives time, talent, and leadership to community-based organizations and initiatives that support social justice, environmental justice, voter engagement, and service to marginalized populations, including people with disabilities, older adults, youth, and individuals who speak English as a second language.

This 2026 scholarship recipient exemplifies leadership, service, and the understanding that equitable education is the foundation of a thriving society and of social, economic, and political mobility.



**NAACP**  
*Niagara Falls Branch*

Renae Kimble, President

EDUCATE. EMPOWER. ENGAGE. ELEVATE.  
EQUITY IN EDUCATION. JUSTICE IN ACTION. OPPORTUNITY FOR ALL.

**\$2,000.00 SCHOLARSHIP**



NIAGARA UNITED VISION, INC

SIXTH ANNUAL

*Juneteenth*

SCHOLARSHIP GALA &  
AWARD DINNER

*Congratulations*

TO THE

**2026**

**NIAGARA UNITED VISION, INC.  
SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS**

Niagara United Vision, Inc. is proud to honor these outstanding students for their dedication, perseverance and commitment to excellence. Your achievements inspire us all.

We applaud your hard work and believe in the bright future ahead of you.

**TOGETHER. WE BUILD A STRONGER, MORE EQUITABLE COMMUNITY FOR NIAGARA FALLS**

SIXTH ANNUAL JUNETEENTH GALA  
AWARD DINNER



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2025 • \$2000.00 SCHOLARSHIP

# NIAGARA COUNTY COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP FUND

The receipt of the Community Partnership Scholarship believes in focusing on finding ways to help individuals, families, organizations and communities prosper.

The Community Partnership Scholarship is dedicated to identifying and implementing strategies that support the prosperity of individuals, families, organizations, and communities.

This student focuses on addressing community issues and adopting a collaborative approach to tackle challenges impacting communities. They volunteer their time and skills to raise awareness about improving communities and the lives of individuals who experience daily challenges. The scholarship recipient recognizes the significance of contributing to the community.

This student adheres to practices that are transparent, inclusive, equitable, impartial, adaptable, prompt, accountable, and quantifiable, all grounded in principles of respect, trust, integrity, and honesty.

This student engages in organizational collaborations, leveraging the strengths of each entity to address critical community issues.

Niagara County Community Partnership Funds secured, in part, by the office of Niagara County Legislator Jeffrey Elder  
4th Legislative District.



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