



*The Black Community  
Organizations Network*

*BCON*



*Presents the  
46th Annual Baccalaureate Ceremony*

**Making our Next Chapter our Best Chapter**

Tuesday, May 14, 2024

6:00 p.m.

Thomas & Mack Center

*“Lift Every Voice and Sing”*  
*Song of Unity*

Words by James Weldon Johnson

Music by John Rosamond Johnson

Lift every voice and sing, till earth and heaven ring.

Ring with the harmonies of Liberty;

Let our rejoicing rise, high as the list'ning 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.

# Baccalaureate Ceremony

Statement of Occasion

Master of Ceremony..... Dr. Andre Denson

## Processional

Invocation..... Ms. De'syre Harris, Nevada State High School

Song of Unity..... Las Vegas Academy of the Arts

History..... Mrs. April Brown-Preston

## Special Remarks by Honored Guests

Clark County School District Board of Trustee Member.....Mr. Adam Johnson

Clark County School District Interim Superintendent.....Dr. Brenda Larsen-Mitchell

University of Nevada, Las Vegas, President.....Dr. Keith Whitfield

BCON Scholarship Presentation.....Dr. Tya Mathis-Coleman

Introduction of Keynote Speaker.....Mrs. Tarsha Hillmon

Keynote Address.....Dr. Ni'cola Mitchell

Acknowledgements.....Dr. David Webb

Kwanzaa Seven Principles..... 2024 Graduates

## Presentation of Schools

Ceremony of Consecration..... Ms. Lisa Aikens

Benediction..... Ms. Te'Shawn Spencer, Canyon Springs High School

# Recessional Seven Guiding Principles

The candles represent the seven guiding principles of the African American community.

KWANZAA(Leader).....	Nia Youngblood
UMOJA (Unity).....	Allaya Ross
KUJICHAGULIA (Self-Determination) .....	Kipruto Koech
UJIMA (Responsibility).....	Aryss Richardson
UJAMAA (Entrepreneurship).....	Torrance White
NIA (Purpose).....	Kaniya Preston
KUUMBA (Creativity).....	Jalaya Preston
IMANI (Faith).....	Tru Coleman

## Ceremony of Consecration

**Leader:** Seniors, please stand.

The Ceremony of Consecration serves as a means for confirming your commitment to a life of PURPOSE, DEVOTION, and DEDICATION in service to our community and mankind.

## Oath of Consecration

I, \_\_\_\_\_, on my honor, will do my best to fulfill my Commitment to God, myself, my family, my community, and to the world. I will do so with love in my heart and honor in my spirit. I will be ever mindful of the less fortunate in the world and will do my part, in my own way, to help rid our society of poverty, racism, and social injustices. I can and will make a difference as I go forth into the world feeling the presence of God's arms around me.

**Leader:** Seniors, the medallion that you will receive today should represent a tangible reminder of the oath of consecration you just vowed to uphold.

You may now be seated.



# BCON Baccalaureate Ceremony Sponsors

## PLATINUM

Del Sol Academy of the Performing Arts  
Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated – Las Vegas Alumnae Chapter  
Las Vegas High School  
Legacy High School  
UPLIFT Foundation of Nevada  
Second Baptist Church  
Sierra Vista High School  
Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Incorporated – Mu Rho Sigma Chapter  
Shadow Ridge High School

## GOLD

Centennial High School  
Northwest Career and Technical Academy

## SILVER

Advanced Technologies Academy  
Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated – Psi Upsilon Omega Chapter  
Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Incorporated – Theta Pi Lambda Chapter  
Council of African American Professionals at UNLV  
Desert Pines High School  
Dr. David Webb  
East Career and Technical Academy  
Foothill High School  
Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Incorporated – Las Vegas Alumni Chapter  
Las Vegas Academy of the Arts  
Les Femmes Douze  
Liberty High School  
National Coalition of 100 Black Women, Incorporated  
National Pan-Hellenic Council – Las Vegas Chapter  
Southwest Career and Technical Academy  
Mr. Sylvester Obafunwa  
West Career and Technical Academy

## BRONZE

Mr. and Mrs. Michael and Susan Blow  
Durango High School  
Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Incorporated – Eta Chi Sigma Chapter  
Sunrise Mountain High School

# Special Recognition and Acknowledgments

**Dr. Brenda Larsen-Mitchell**

**Interim Superintendent of Schools, Clark County School District**

**College, Career, Equity, and School Choice Unit, Clark County School District**

## **Scholarship Judges:**

**Ms. Kimberly Goynes**

**Mrs. Billie Rayford**

**Dr. Willie Smith**

**Darron R. McCoy**

**DJ Sincere**

**Mr. Allen Shelton**

**Pop's Photo and Trophy**

**The UPS Store #7327**

**Thomas and Mack Center**

**Tre Penn Photos**

**Vice President's Office – Division Student Affairs, UNLV**

## **BCON Members**

**Ms. Lisa Aikens**

**Mr. Paul Bennett**

**Mrs. April Brown-Preston**

**Mrs. Tarsha Hillmon**

**Mr. Michael Hollis**

**Dr. Tya Mathis-Coleman**

**Mrs. Kanasha Matlock**

**Ms. Cicely Morgan**

**Ms. Korliss Rice**



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Dr. David Webb



Les Femmes Douze



Sylvester Obafunwa, MBA



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# PLATINUM SPONSORS

