

ARC ~ CRC ~ FLC ~ SCC
17th Annual (Virtual)
Celebration of Excellence & Achievement for Students of African Descent

Okyeames (Oh-chee-ah-me)

“Okyeame” is an Akan word which represents a spokesperson, ambassador and/or interpreter to a village or community elder or chief.

Okyeames for this event are:

Aba Gerri Scott & Kwesi Jeri Marshall

Call to Order

Drumming is used as an instrument to communicate that the Ceremony is about to begin. It also sends a signal to all participants, a transitional moment of focusing our collective attention and energy on the event about to take place. Through these deeds, we create a sacred space to express our greatest intentions so that what we do can be for the greatest good.

Introduction of Council of Elders & Permission from Elders

In many African societies, Elders are the custodians of the village, community or land. Because of their caretaking and oversight role, it is appropriate to ask for their blessings for any event, activity or plans involving the community or village. This is also done as a sign of respect, and in recognition of the experience and knowledge that comes with eldership.

~ Procession ~

Opening Prayer ~ Minister Roy Mathews

Pouring of Libation ~ Tetteh Kisseh

The African tradition of pouring Libation at all important social gatherings is another way to communicate with God and to honor and remember our ancestors. Libation recognizes those members of our family and larger community that lived in the past and laid the foundation for those of us still living.

Lift Ev'ry Voice and Sing ~ Kendra Smith-Amos

Greeting & Explanation of Celebration



Introduction of Student Speakers ~ Ryana Fisher

Regia Schauer ~ American River College
Angelina Ramos ~ Cosumnes River College

Recognition of Scholarship Recipients ~ Dr. Debra Crumpton

Sponsored by the Los Rios Black Faculty & Staff Association, a scholarship in the amount of \$500 will be awarded to one Honoree from:
Sacramento City and Folsom Lake College.

Transition Ritual

This celebration is designed to honor our students and symbolically mark a transition in their educational journey. The transition ritual, demonstrated virtually, represents a way to communicate the values, intentions and behaviors important to the continued facilitation of growth and development toward fulfillment of future goals. The conferring of Kente cloth strips and the Stool Ceremony serve as the symbols of this transition.

Our Honorees ~ Group 1

Fenix Drum & Dance Performance

Introduction of Student Speakers ~ Ryana Fisher

Jesse Agbassekou ~ Folsom Lake College
Sharnell Martin ~ Sacramento City College

Recognition of Scholarship Recipients ~ Dr. Debra Crumpton

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Cosumnes River and American River College.

Our Honorees ~ Group 2

Blessing from Elders

Musical Selection ~ Kendra Smith-Amos

~ Closing Remarks & Recessional ~