



MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.
DAY OF LEARNING
at Capital University

Celebrating the Voice that Inspired Change.

34th Annual
DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.
DAY OF LEARNING

Monday, January 20, 2025

Gay S. Steele Keynote Speaker

Dontavius Jarrells

State Representative and Assistant Minority Leader

Schedule of Events

- 9 a.m. Community Gathering
Harry C. Moores Student Union, Lobby
- 9:45 a.m. Musical Prelude
Conservatory of Music, Mees Hall
- 9:50 a.m. Procession to Mees Hall
Departing from Harry C. Moores Student Union, Lobby
- 10 a.m. Convocation
Conservatory of Music, Mees Hall
- Gay S. Steele Keynote Speaker
Representative Dontavius Jarrells
State Representative and Assistant Minority Leader
- 11 a.m. – 2 p.m. The Hank Marr Jazz Luncheon
Harry C. Moores Student Union, Main Dining Room
- Featured Musicians
Michael Booker, Garren Smith, Donald J. Washington, Robert Williams
- 11 a.m. – 4 p.m. Local and Small Business Market
Harry C. Moores Student Union, Lobby
- 11:45 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. Workshops
- 12 – 4 p.m. The Schumacher Gallery
Blackmore Library, Fourth Floor
The Perfect Shot: Walter Iooss Jr., and
the Art of Sports Photography
- 1 – 4 p.m. Community Engagement Opportunities
Convergent Media Center, First Floor
- 1 – 4 p.m. Health Resources and Education
Convergent Media Center, Lobby

Representative Dontavious Jarrells

State Representative and Assistant Minority Leader Dontavious Jarrells is serving his third term in the Ohio General Assembly, representing House District 1, which includes the City of Bexley and portions of Columbus. Widely regarded as one of the most effective Democratic legislators in the Ohio House, Rep. Jarrells has earned a reputation as a transformative leader and a tireless advocate for progress, equity, and opportunity.



Born and raised in Cleveland's historic Hough neighborhood, Rep. Jarrells grew up surrounded by the challenges that countless Ohioans face every day. Families struggling to find affordable housing, children attending underfunded schools, and communities fighting for access to basic healthcare were not abstract issues - they were his lived reality. As a lead poisoning survivor, he understands the deeply personal impact of environmental injustice and systemic inequities. These experiences shaped his worldview and ignited his passion to build a brighter, fairer future for all.

Rep. Jarrells' legislative record showcases his unwavering dedication to creating a better Ohio for all families. He has secured \$150 million for lead prevention programs and passed landmark legislation, including the Paystub Protection Act, which guarantees workers access to their pay statements; a law providing no-cost lead abatement for water lines; and legislation empowering attorneys to independently remove discriminatory deed restrictions. He has also spearheaded efforts to remove offensive language from Ohio's state code and successfully designated January 11 as Human Trafficking Awareness Day. Beyond his legislative achievements, Rep. Jarrells has delivered millions of dollars in funding to House District 1 and Franklin County, supporting local initiatives and capital projects that strengthen the region.

Fueled by an unshakable belief in the power of public service, Rep. Jarrells is steadfast in his mission to advance policies that uplift families, open doors of opportunity, and deliver justice to every resident.

Steering Committee

Jennifer Adams
Tristen Davis
Robert Fleming
Era McMahon
Rebecca Mohr

Kelly Murphy
Matt Rhyand
Deanna Wagner
Antoinette Wainwright
Sophia Wilson

Opening Convocation

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| Musical Prelude..... | Gregory J. Watkins and the Worship & Praise Chorale |
| Opening Meditation..... | Rev. Dan Hille Interim University Pastor, Religious and Spiritual Life |
| Welcome..... | Jody S. Fournier, Ph.D. Provost and Vice President of Learning |
| Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Learning History | Immanuel Lane ‘25 President, Ebony Brotherhood Association |
| Musical Selections | Gregory J. Watkins and the Worship & Praise Chorale |
| Martin Luther King, Jr. Spirit Award | Megan Martinez ‘26 Vice President, Student Government |
| Inclusive Excellence Leadership Award..... | Jody S. Fournier, Ph.D. Provost and Vice President of Learning |
| Introduction of Speaker | Chacyra Thompson ‘25 President, Black Law Students Association Capital University Law School |
| The Gay S. Steele Keynote Address* | Representative Dontavious Jarrells State Representative and Assistant Minority Leader |
| Musical Selection | Gregory J. Watkins and the Worship & Praise Chorale |
| Benediction | Marcus Martin ‘25 Master of Theological Studies |
| Closing Song “Lift Ev’ry Voice and Sing” | Robert Fleming (Words printed on following page) Steering Committee Member |
| Final Remarks..... | Tristen Davis Associate Director, Student and Community Engagement |

*The keynote address is named in honor of Gay S. Steele, who served as Capital’s director of Multicultural Affairs for 21 years. Steele was the primary force behind Capital’s annual celebration of the King holiday. By bestowing such an honor and naming the address after Steele, her programmatic vision and legacy will continue for many years to come.

Lift Ev'ry Voice and Sing

Words by James Weldon Johnson

Music by John Rosamond Johnson

Lift every voice and sing,
'Til earth and heaven ring,
Ring with the harmonies of Liberty;
Let our rejoicing rise
High as the listening 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 chast'ning 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,
Lest, 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.

Community Engagement

All Community Engagement activities will be held in the Convergent Media Center.

School Supply Bag Assembly

Help Capital compile school supply bags for students in the Greater Columbus area. Donations of unopened school supplies and personal care items are also welcome.

Oral History Project

Share your MLK Day experiences to honor Dr. King's legacy through stories from our campus and community.

Health Resources and Education

Explore health resources and educational materials provided by campus staff and external partners.

Cap Cupboard and Cap Closet

Donate professional attire to Cap Closet and food to Cap Cupboard to support students' professional and food security needs.

Local and Small Business Market

The Local and Small Business Market will take place in the Harry C. Moores Student Union.

Bexley Chamber of Commerce
Blaque Diamond Ink
Divine Hands, LLC
Events and Custom Creations by Tasha
Joi Candles

JP Morgan Chase
Ju'Ellz Designz
Sundai Parfumerie
ReBeweled Accessories

Hank Marr Jazz Luncheon

11 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Harry C. Moores Student Union, Main Dining Room

During the planning of the first Capital University Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Learning in January 1992, Professor Bob Breithaupt suggested a southern-style dinner much like one Dr. King may have enjoyed on a Sunday following church services. Breithaupt agreed to put together a group of local musicians, which included Hank Marr. Born on January 30, 1927, in a section of Columbus known then as Flytown, Marr developed an interest in the piano at an early age and played with the Sammy Hopkins Trio and Rusty Bryant bands.

The Hank Marr Trio was formed in the mid-1950s with Marr on the increasingly popular B-3 organ. He joined King Records in 1961 and recorded seven albums. Marr gained immense popularity through the years. He remained a central part of Capital's Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Learning Jazz Luncheon until his death in 2004. The luncheon is now named in his honor.

Workshops

RISE

11:45 a.m. - 12:30 p.m., 12:45 - 1:30 p.m.

Conservatory of Music, Huntington Recital Hall

RISE is a national nonprofit that educates and empowers the sports community to eliminate racial discrimination, champion social justice and improve race relations. RISE's curriculum is designed to empower sports administrators/staff, coaches and athletes to be leaders in discussing and addressing matters of racism, prejudice, diversity and inclusivity. The multifaceted curriculum is structured to be experiential and provide participants with a safe environment to learn.

Faith in Action: The Church's Role in the Civil Rights Movement and Beyond

1 - 2:15 p.m.

Ruff Memorial Learning Center, Bridge of Learning

Rev. Floria Washington, Second Baptist Church, Dr. Donald L. Huber, Fred W. Meuser
Professor Emeritus of Church History, Trinity Lutheran Seminary

Join Central Ohio political leaders for a compelling discussion on the church's role during the Civil Rights Movement. Explore how religious institutions acted as hubs for activism, community support, and moral guidance. The panel will also discuss the ongoing influence of faith-based organizations on today's political and social landscapes, addressing justice, equality, and empowerment.

Rhythms of Unity: A Movement & Music Journey Through African and African American Culture

1 - 2:30 p.m.

Harry C. Moores Student Union, Schneider North

Candice Flows, Inc.

Candice Flows, Inc., joined by live djembe musicians, leads a 90-minute workshop blending movement, music, and storytelling rooted in West African and African American traditions. This interactive experience highlights the historical and cultural significance of these art forms, fostering unity and social change. Through arts and education, attendees explore creative expression as a tool for empowerment, reflecting Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s vision for a just society.

I'm Truly Yours, America: Film Screening and Q&A

1:45 - 2:30 p.m.

Convergent Media Center, Room 121

Capital University's award-winning Immersion course partnered with the Ohio History Connection to revitalize educational programming on Ohio's Underground Railroad history. Over nearly a year, students created the documentary, "I'm Truly Yours, America: The Life and Times of Joshua McCarter Simpson." Highlighting this lesser-known abolitionist and writer from Morgan County, Ohio, the film educates youth and amplifies Black voices in history. The premiere includes a Q&A with the filmmaking team, exploring interdisciplinary challenges and Simpson's legacy.

