

Ujima Award Recipients 2024

Voice of Freedom Award Recipient: Tariq Jordan



Tariq embodies freedom through his roles as a musician, advocate, and community friend. His journey in music is not just a personal pursuit but a medium through which he voices the concerns and rights of others, particularly his peers. Tariq's commitment to advocacy is a testament to his belief in freedom of expression and the power of collective voices to drive change. By sharing his talents across the community, he fosters an environment where creativity and solidarity flourish. Tariq Jordan demonstrates kindness; passion and a commitment towards contributing to a more vibrant, supportive community.

Ujima Legacy Award Recipient: Bernard McCree



Bernard McCree previously worked at KU for many years. Mr. McCree has been an advocate and a champion for students through his work as the Director of Financial Aid, & Wilson School District Board Member. He has demonstrated his commitment to seeking opportunities and pathways for student success. He continues to leave his mark as a mentor through his work with AIMS and Profs (Providing Resources and Opportunities for Future Standouts) and is also an active member of Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity Incorporated. His work in creating supportive relationships across campus deserves acknowledgment. He has always been devoted to elevating the Golden Bear and surrounding Communities. He has been described as compassionate, empathetic, supportive, and someone who often goes the extra mile behind the scenes. And he can always be counted on to be the best dressed at any function. Thank you for embodying the mission of collective work and responsibility.

Ujima Excellence Award Recipient: Dr. Brenda Muzeta



Dr. Muzeta has contributed to the collective work needed to uplift a village. She has been an unwavering supporter of our mission and a consistent MCC campus collaborator and has presented each year at the Ujima conference. She is always willing to share the beauty and richness of her culture with our KU community. She is from Lusaka, Zambia and is currently Assistant Professor of Secondary Education, Community mentor, African Student Association Advisor, FDI (Frederick Douglass Institute) Executive Board Member, Scholar and more. She leads our community with confidence and kindness, and she is willing to participate in the work towards creating belonging. Additionally, we are grateful for her

commitment to elevating students through education. She exemplifies excellence, and grace.

Campus Unifier Award Recipient: Bilal Salaam



Bilal is a trusted colleague, mentor, friend, and Coach. He is receiving this award today because we would like to thank him for his dedication to D.E.I, the mentorship he provides through AIMS (Achievement Initiative for Male Success), and for the community he has built in athletics for our students. Learning is a lifelong journey. He certainly has embraced this for himself and encouraged it in others. Additionally, Bilal has unified the sports community by creating I.D.E.A. & empowering athletes to speak out and be better allies, community members, teammates, and friends. Bilal's reach far exceeds this campus, the engagement, perspectives, and advocacy and has certainly left a mark. We need people like him in these spaces and we are grateful that through your work this campus is a safer, more thoughtful, and welcoming place.

Emerging Leader Award: Makiya Savage



Makiya has demonstrated outstanding leadership and advocacy for our students of color on campus. She is the current president of BSU, member of Catwalk modeling troop, Black Flame dance team and SISTERs. The list does not end there. Her drive and passion have placed her in leadership positions across campus all while working multiple jobs and finding time to squeeze in her internships. She is fierce, bright, and unapologetically authentic. We adore her for that. We know that she will continue leading the charge of change anywhere she goes. Today we want her to know that we are grateful and proud of the space she has created and the representation she has provided for many. Her resume is just that impressive. Makiya will graduate this May with her bachelor's degree in Sports management and will continue to Temple, where she will pursue her Master of Science in Sport Business: Athletic Administration & Recreation & Event Management. We know you like the quote from Nelson Mandela- "sports have the power to change the world" Well Mikaya...so do you. Thank you for all you have done for us. We look forward to seeing what she leads in her next adventure!

Community Service Award: Shavon Smith



Shavon is a student who comes to us from Kingston, Jamaica. He has been described as genuine, wonderfully authentic, and refreshingly unafraid to be himself. He does not just talk about ideas, he creates solutions and leads them into existence, such as volunteering countless hours of his time as a videographer for the men's basketball team and the Fredrick Douglas Institute. He is always willing to lend his assistance, talents, and perspectives towards the greater good. Shavon Smith is a bridge builder. He is such a wonderful example of someone genuine, who puts forth positivity through his actions. One of the best things about him is that he is unafraid to highlight the greatness of others. Equally important is that he too exemplify greatness. His kindness, friendship and care for people has helped create a better community here at KU.