



## MLK Day 2025 Events



MLK Dayton is an organization created to “inspire citizens to act on the vision of social justice created by the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.” During the MLK Memorial March on Jan. 20, 2025, attendees will walk from 1323 W. Third St. to Sinclair Community College Building 12. The evening’s banquet will feature a speech from Dr. Rodney Wallace Kennedy. FILE PHOTO

Martin Luther King Jr. Day, which celebrates the legendary Civil Rights Movement leader, is on the third Monday of January each year.

This date was chosen over Martin Luther King Jr.’s birthday of Jan. 15 because of the Uniform Holiday Act, signed into law by Lydon B. Johnson in 1968. Created to provide “uniform annual observances of certain legal public holidays on Mondays,” this law created official dates for holidays such as George Washington’s birthday (now known as Presidents Day).

When President Ronald Reagan signed the bill officially establishing Martin Luther King Jr.

Day in 1983, the holiday followed the same precedent set by the Uniform Holiday Act.

This year, the holiday is on Jan. 20. Groups will host special events to honor the legend, and here is a guide to a number of them:

- The National Underground Railroad Freedom Center

When: 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Jan. 20

Location: 50 E. Freedom Way, Cincinnati

More info: The National Underground Railroad Freedom Center will host a series of events to honor Martin Luther King Jr. on Jan. 20. The day will begin at 8 a.m. with the “King Legacy Celebration: Passing the Torch” ceremony. This event will

feature performances by Dr. Lisa Moore and Elementz, as well as a keynote speech by Dr. Wendy Ellis. After the ceremony, a continental breakfast will be served. While this is a ticketed event, the museum itself will not charge admission from 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Jan. 20. Museum guests can also take part in activities themed around the holiday.

- MLK Dayton Martin Luther King Jr. Day Celebration

When: A memorial march is set for 10 a.m.-noon Jan. 20. A celebration banquet will be begin at 6 p.m.

Location: The memorial march is at 1323 W. Third St., Dayton. The banquet is at the Dayton Arcade at

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## Fifth Third Receives Gold Medal in GOBankingRates’ 2025 Best Banks by State Awards in Ohio

GREATERCINCINNATI & DAYTON — Fifth Third (Nasdaq: FITB) received three gold medals in GOBankingRates’ 2025 Best Banks by State Awards, including top recognition in Ohio.

“It’s an honor to be recognized by GOBankingRates. This award highlights the dedication and hard work of our teams at Fifth Third,” said Tim Elsbrock, Fifth Third (Greater Cincinnati & Dayton) regional president. “At Fifth Third, keeping the customer at the center of everything



examine the top financial institutions by state branch locations, analyzing data for all 50 states. Winners for each state are determined based on a variety of factors including: total assets as sourced from the FDIC, minimum deposit requirements, fees, APY, products/services offered and mobile app ratings, among other factors. The bulk of analysis was conducted over a five week span from September 30 through November 1.

we do and delivering the best possible experience isn’t just a commitment – it’s who we are.”

GOBankingRates’ Best Banks By State Awards

## U.S. Department of Education Awards \$900K Grant to Sinclair Community College

The U.S. Department of Education has awarded a \$900,000 grant to Sinclair Community College to fund the establishment of a Student Resilience Center, which will help serve students with mental health concerns, as well as basic needs insecurity.

The “Basic Needs for Postsecondary Students Program” provides grants to eligible institutions of higher education (IHEs) to support programs that address the basic needs of students and to report



on practices that improve outcomes for students.

“As Program Director of the project, I am elated that Sinclair has been chosen as an awardee of the Basic Needs for Postsecondary Students U.S. Department of Education grant,” said Dr. Lorrie Spivey, PsyD, NCC, LPC, Manager of Accessibility Services at Sinclair.

“In alignment with Sinclair’s mission, this grant will enable us to expand upon current services and address the essential needs of our students, while empowering them through resilience and building opportunities.”

The grant will be allocated over the course of three (3) years and

*Continued on Page 5*

## Father Died in L.A. Wildfire, Stayed Behind to Wait For Ambulance For His Disabled Son

Nationwide — The devastating loss of Anthony Mitchell Sr., 67, and his son, Justin, highlights the severe challenges faced by disabled individuals during natural disasters. A retired salesman and double amputee, Anthony lived in Altadena, California, with his bedridden son, who had cerebral palsy. Despite their vulnerability, the two were unable to escape the fast-moving Eaton fire that consumed their home. Anthony’s daughter, Hajime White, confirmed they were awaiting an ambulance that never arrived.

According to The Los Angeles Times, as the

fire approached, Anthony reassured his family over the phone that help was on its way. “He wanted to keep everybody at ease,” his son, Anthony Jr., said. However, it became clear that no rescue was forthcoming. Staying true to his character as a devoted father, Anthony chose to remain by Justin’s side. Tragically, both became early victims of the wildfire, which has claimed at least 11 lives in Los Angeles County.

The Mitchell family’s ordeal underscores systemic issues in disaster preparedness for disabled residents. California has long been aware of the disproportionate risks faced by disabled individ-



Anthony Mitchell

uals during emergencies. A 2019 state audit criticized the lack of readiness among emergency management agencies. Despite recommendations, little progress appears to have been made. Advocates point to inadequate evacu-

ation plans and limited access to life-saving resources for people with disabilities.

Disabled residents, like actress Joci Scott, expressed fears of being forgotten during evacuations. Essential medical

equipment, such as oxygen tanks and mobility devices, often cannot accompany evacuees, creating additional barriers. Organizations like the Partnership for Inclusive Disaster Strategies strive to bridge these gaps by coordinating

resources and providing emergency supplies. However, logistical challenges, such as road closures and gridlock, hinder their efforts.

Local agencies and nonprofits are attempting to address these issues by offering battery backups for medical devices and transportation assistance. Yet, communication remains a significant problem. Many disabled individuals report learning about these resources only through word of mouth, leaving them unprepared when disaster strikes.

For Anthony Jr., the loss of his father and brother has sparked frustration and anger. “This shouldn’t have happened,” he said. “The institutions let them down.” The Mitchell’s tragic story serves as a stark reminder of the urgent need for inclusive disaster preparedness and support systems to protect society’s most vulnerable members.

## 5 Remarkable Women will be on Quarters in 2025

The U.S. Mint is wrapping up its four-year American Women Quarters Program with new quarters coming out this year depicting historic figures like a tennis star, an astronomer whose work is credited with leading to the discovery of dark matter, and the founder of the Girl Scouts.

Started in 2022, the American Women Quarters Program is an attempt to balance out the faces of U.S. currency, which is dominated by men. With five new quarters released each year since then, coins depicting women like Eleanor Roosevelt and Sally Ride have entered circulation, telling a



more complete story about the people who’ve helped shape America. This year is the fourth and final year of the program.

“This program has recognized the remarkable

legacies of these extraordinary she-roes,” U.S. Mint Director Ventris C. Gibson said in a statement. “These beautiful American Women quarters will be in circulation

for decades to come and continue to educate the American people on our incredible honorees.”

The final class of new quarters includes **Ida B. Wells**, a Black woman born into slavery in Mississippi during the middle of the Civil War who went on to work in journalism, fight against lynching, champion women’s right to vote, and found the National Association of Colored Women’s Club.

Wells’s quarter, sculpted by Mint medallic artist Phebe Hemphill, cites her professions as a journalist, suffragist, and civil rights activist.

**Juliette Gordon Low** founded what would later be known as the Girl Scouts in 1912 after meeting the British founder of the Boy Scouts, Lord Robert Baden-Powell. The following year, the organization published its first handbook, *How Girls Can Help Their Country*. Sculptor Eric David Custer depicts Low in uniform alongside the first Girl Scout Trefoil, which she designed.

When **Vera Rubin** told her high school teacher she was attending Vas-

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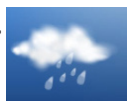


# Around DAYTON

## Miami Valley Weather

### Saturday Sunday

Rain  
High 37  
Low 23

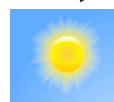


Rain  
High 25  
Low 3



### Monday

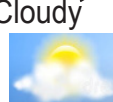
Sunny  
High 10  
Low 7



## 5 day Forecast

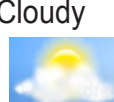
### Tuesday

Mostly Cloudy  
High 14  
Low 0



### Wednesday

Mostly Cloudy  
High 16  
Low 14



# DEFINITELY DAYTON

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### MLK Day 2025 Events... Continued from Page 1

35 W. Fourth St.  
 More info: MLK Dayton is an organization created to "inspire citizens to act on the vision of social justice created by the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr." During the MLK Memorial March, attendees will walk from 1323 W. Third St. to Sinclair Community College Building 12. The evening's banquet will feature a speech from Dr. Rodney Wallace Kennedy.

- Wittenberg University Martin Luther King Jr. Convocation

Credit: Barbara J. Perenic

When: 10-11 a.m. Jan. 20

Location: Weaver Chapel: 4 E. Campus Drive, Springfield

More info: As a part of the free "Wittenberg Series" of speakers, the Springfield college will host best-selling author and activist Nic Stone for a Martin Luther King Jr. Day presentation entitled "Legacy of a leader." Stone is the author of books such as "Dear Martin," "Fast Pitch" and "Jackpot." This event is open to the public.

- Ohio University MLK

Jr. Silent March and Celebratory Brunch

When: A silent march begins at 9:30 a.m. Jan. 20. Brunch is 10-11:30 a.m.

Location: The march begins at 64 University Terrace, Athens. Brunch will be at 1 Park Place, Athens

More info: The silent march will be led by the Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity. Later in the morning, the celebratory brunch will have a keynote speech from Dr. Terrance L. Frazier.

- Huber Heights sixth annual MLK Unity Program

When: 9:30 a.m.-noon Jan. 20

Location: Wayne High School, 5400 Chambersburg Road, Huber Heights

More info: This year, Huber Heights' Martin Luther King Jr. Day celebration has the theme "Huber 365: Protecting our Freedom, Justice and Democracy." This event will offer several activities, including "Meet a Neighbor," which will be interactive. This event will also feature several speakers, presentations and a first-come-first-serve complimentary

breakfast.

- MLK Day Student Celebration: 'The Six Triple Eight' free screening at The Neon

Credit: Bob Mahoney/Perry Well Films 2/Courtesy of Netflix

When: 11 a.m. Jan. 20. Doors open at 10:30 a.m. Seating is first-come, first-serve.

Location: The Neon, 130 E. Fifth St., Dayton

More info: Directed by Tyler Perry, "The Six Triple Eight" tells the inspiring, powerful story of World War II's first and only Women's Army Corps unit of color led by Daytonian Charity Adams Earley. Based on Kevin M. Hymel's article "Fighting a Two-Front War" featured in WWII History Magazine, the film stars Kerry Washington as Adams, who at age 26 supervised the 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion. Adams served as the highest-ranking Black woman officer during World War II. This event is particularly targeted at young people and will include a discussion following the screening.

## RTA Offering Free Rides System-Wide on Martin Luther King Jr. Day



In honor of Martin Luther King Jr. Day, the RTA will be offering free rides system-wide on Monday, Jan. 20, 2025, to ensure those in the community are able to attend various events celebrating King's legacy.

Due to the celebrations, there may be some service delays and rolling

route deviations in downtown Dayton. The Dayton MLK Jr. Memorial Day March and Rally will start at 10 a.m. from the Charles Drew Health Center, 1323 W. Third St., and will travel along Third Street through the downtown Dayton corridor before ending along West Third Street in front

of Sinclair College.

RTA will provide a free shuttle service from Sinclair College building 12 on Perry Street back to the Drew Health Center from 10 a.m. to noon.

To plan your trip visit [iriderta.org](http://iriderta.org) or download the Transit app.

## "WRDA (125) Great Miami River, Ohio" Project Aims to Transform the Region

The Miami Conservancy District announces its inclusion in the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 2024 under Section 125, a vital milestone for the Great Miami River and the communities it serves. The WRDA (125) Great Miami River, Ohio project is set to address critical chal-

lenges and unlock significant opportunities along the Great Miami River corridor. The authorization enables a feasibility study for the project and positions the region for transformative advancements in flood risk management, ecosystem restoration, and recreation enhancement.

"I'm proud to have secured authorization for the Great Miami River project in the Water Resources Development Act that will manage flood risk and promote ecosystem restoration in the Great Miami River basin," said Congressman Mike Turner (OH-10). "This is a win for the Miami Valley and a testament to what we can accomplish when we work together to protect our communities, improve recreational opportunities, and invest in our natural habitats."

The Great Miami River has a history of severe flooding, most notably the catastrophic flood of 1913, which prompted the creation of Miami Conservancy District's innovative flood protection system. For more than a century, the Miami Conservancy District flood protection system has safeguarded lives and property while enhancing the quality of life in Southwest Ohio.

Over 100 years old, the system of dams and levees requires investment to ensure the infrastructure stays strong.

This WRDA authorization marks a significant step forward for Miami Conservancy District. It will enable us to diversify our funding sources and explore new opportunities to reinvest in aging infrastructure, ensuring the continued safety and resilience of our community, building on our legacy of flood protection, water stewardship and community recreation," said MaryLynn Lodor, General Manager at the Miami Conservancy District. "This project is proof of the collective vision for a stronger, healthier Great Miami River."

The authorization of a feasibility study for the project marks the beginning of detailed planning and collaboration. The Miami Conservancy District will work with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and other stakeholders to ensure project success. The feasibility study is the first step towards future federal funding opportunities for the rehabilitation of the regional flood protection and recreation system.

For more information, visit [www.mcdwater.org](http://www.mcdwater.org)

## Magistrate Visits DML to Host Program on Rights

Several Dayton Metro Library locations welcome Magistrate Brandon McClain of the Dayton Municipal Court to host Know Your Rights.

Topics may include youth situational awareness, interacting with police, navigating traffic stops, and how to advocate for oneself during encounters with the justice system. Time will be allotted for questions and

answers.

Schedule of Sessions:  
 Friday, January 17, 4:30-5:30 pm, Main Library, Conference Room 1A

Friday, January 24, 4:30-5:30 pm, Southeast Branch

Friday, February 21, 4:30-5:30 pm, Northmont Branch

Friday, February 28, 4:30-5:30 pm, West Branch

While this program is recommended for an adult audience, parents and caregivers may find the content relevant for their tween/teen children and are encouraged to bring them along. Registration is not required.

For more information, visit [DaytonMetroLibrary.org](http://DaytonMetroLibrary.org) or call the Library's Ask Me Line at 937.463.2665.

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 (937) 559-5582  
[DaytonWeek@aol.com](mailto:DaytonWeek@aol.com)

Editor/Publisher  
 Donerik Black

Production Manager  
 Brenda Coleman

Photographer  
 Kenny Wilkinson

Writers  
 Brenda Cochran  
 LaTonya Victoria

# National

## Community Development Programs at DML

Dayton Metro Library offers an array of business and nonprofit-related programs for adult patrons interested in learning about banking, beginning a business, and grant writing.

**Financial Fridays: Banking Basics**, Friday, January 17, 1:30-3 pm, Kettering-Moraine Branch: Fifth Third Bank representatives will present information for those looking to open a new bank account and understand banking options. They will identify financial institutions, compare different types of accounts, discuss ways institutions protect and ensure money, and offer ways to help protect money using online banking. Time will be allotted for questions. Registration is required.

**How to Start a Business in Ohio**, Monday, January 27, 4:40-5:30 pm, Virtual: Learn the process to register for an LLC in Ohio. Registration is required.

**Grant Proposal Writing Basics**, Monday, January 27, 5:30-7 pm, Vandalia Branch: This program will explain each part of a proposal seeking funding for 501c3 nonprofit organizations. Exchange tips on researching, writing, and submitting a grant proposal, and use time for hands-on practice. Attendees are welcome to bring in-process proposals or RFPs. Registration is required.

**Is Starting a Nonprofit Right for You?**, Wednesday, January 29, 3-4:40 pm, Northmont Branch: DML's Nonprofit Services Specialist, Jessica Hunter, will present the steps

needed to begin a nonprofit organization in Ohio. Discussion includes items to consider before beginning the organization, local resources available, and best practices. Registration is required.

**Financial Fridays: Preventing Identity Theft**, Friday, January 31, 1-2:30 pm, Kettering-Moraine Branch: Fifth Third Bank representatives will discuss the main types of identity theft and fraud, how to recognize being targeted, and how to avoid becoming a victim. Time will be allotted for questions. Registration is required.

For more information and to register, visit [DaytonMetroLibrary.org](http://DaytonMetroLibrary.org) or call the Library's Ask Me Line at 937.463.2665.

## Black Man from Ohio Fights to Keep Street He Bought at Auction for \$5K



Jason Fauntleroy

Nationwide — Jason Fauntleroy, an African American man from Butler County, Ohio, is battling the city of Trenton to keep a street he unintentionally purchased at an auction for \$5,000, as officials try to reclaim it through eminent domain.

In 2019, Fauntleroy bought a vacant lot at a Butler County Sheriff's auction, but to his surprise, he also gained ownership of an entire street, including five homes, according to WCPO.

Now, the city of Trenton is claiming ownership of the street, stating that it needs to be turned into a public road. Fauntleroy, however, argues he hasn't been offered fair compensation.

According to Ohio law, individuals whose properties are taken by eminent domain should receive fair market value, but Fauntleroy says he's only been offered the amount he paid for the vacant lot, not the entire street.

Fauntleroy said that city officials have ignored his calls. He said, "They shut me out. They blocked my calls. It's hard to even get through anybody."

Trenton City Manager Marcos Nichols acknowledged the confusion about how Fauntleroy ended up with the street. He explained that it was originally a private drive maintained by a homeowners' association. Nichols also stated that the city wants to convert the road into a public street for easier maintenance but declined to comment on how the street's value was appraised.

Moreover, Fauntleroy is calling for fair treatment, urging the city to "treat people fair; do honest work. Don't just take advantage of someone because they don't have the means of getting an attorney."

## Michelle Obama to Skip Trump's Inauguration, She Also Did Not Attend Jimmy Carter's Funeral

Nationwide — Former first lady Michelle Obama will not attend President-elect Donald Trump's inauguration on January 20, marking another major public event she has missed in recent weeks. This follows her absence at former President Jimmy Carter's state funeral in Washington.



Michelle Obama

Kamala Harris during the election, warning that women's rights would be at risk if Trump returned to the White House.

"Former President Barack Obama is confirmed to attend the 60th Inaugural Ceremonies.

Former Presidents George W. Bush and Bill Clinton are confirmed to attend Trump's inauguration at the Capitol. Former first ladies Laura Bush and Hillary Clinton will also be there with their husbands, representatives confirmed.

No reason was given for her absence, though she also missed former President Jimmy Carter's funeral last week. At Carter's funeral, Michelle was the only spouse absent,

while while her husband sat next to Trump. Despite their political rivalry, Barack Obama and Donald Trump were seen chatting and laughing during the funeral service.

Michelle Obama has been vocal in her opposition to Trump, actively campaigning against him in the 2016, 2020, and 2024 elections. In her memoir, she criticized Trump's "birther" campaign that questioned Barack Obama's citizenship.

Last year, she supported

## DML Patrons Can Learn About Their Tenant Rights

Dayton Metro Library will host the Dayton Tenant Union and Legal Aide for Tenant Rights & Responsibilities on the Road at several Branches.

This program will offer information to the communities DML serves. They will review the resources that are available when approaching a housing crisis and go over how to review a lease. With this information, patrons will be empowered and better understand their rights and responsibilities as renters in Dayton. Childcare will also be provided at this event.

Locations:

Northwest Branch, Monday, January 27, 6-7:30 pm

Vandalia Branch, February 20, 6-7:30 pm

Trotwood Branch, Thursday, February 27, 6-7:30 pm

Registration is not required. For more information, visit [DaytonMetroLibrary.org](http://DaytonMetroLibrary.org) or call the Library's Ask Me Line at 937.463.2665.

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Quster B.  
System Engineer  
at Verizon

"As a young mother, working as a cashier for over six years, I knew that I wanted a career in tech, but didn't know how to pursue it. I found NPower! Without NPower, I probably would still be working a dead-end job, barely making ends meet, but now I am a System Engineer. I am forever thankful!"

shows her staring off into the cosmos with a spiral galaxy background.

Born in 1987 with congenital muscular dystrophy, Stacey Park Milbern was a disability rights activist who founded the Disability Justice Culture Club. She was named by then-President Barack Obama to the President's Committee for People With Intellectual Disabilities in 2014. Milbern was a producer for Netflix's Oscar-nominated documentary *Crip Camp: A Disability Revolution* in 2020. Milbern died that same year at the age of 33. Her coin is sculpted by Craig A. Campbell.

Before Venus, Serena, and Billie Jean King, there was **Althea Gibson**. A tennis star of the 1950s, Gibson faced segregation and discrimination and went on to become the first Black woman in history to win the U.S. Nationals, French Championship, and Wimbledon. Gibson was a multi-sport athlete, later becoming a golfer and the first Black woman on a Ladies Professional Golf Association tour. Her quarter, sculpted by Renata Gordon, calls Gibson a "trailblazing champion."

U.S. currency has come a long way since 1979, when Susan B. Anthony became the first woman to appear on a U.S. circulating coin. With the final installment of the American Women Quarters Program, the faces and stories of 20 new women can now join her.

# Arts & Entertainment

## Twitch's Mom Speaks Out, Says His Wife's Drug Abuse Claims Are "Misleading" and "Hurtful"



Stephen Twitch Boss with his mom, Connie

Nationwide — Stephen "tWitch" Boss' mother, Connie Boss Alexander, is publicly criticizing Allison Holker, the late dancer's widow, for claims made in her new memoir alleging that he struggled with drug addiction. tWitch, a celebrated DJ and dancer who passed away at 40 in December 2022, has been at the center of controversy as his wife's assertions have drawn sharp rebukes from his family and friends.

In an impassioned Instagram post, his mom adamantly denies and

condemns Holker's portrayal of her son, calling the allegations "misleading and hurtful." She accused Holker, 36, of "crossing every line of decency" and vowed to protect her son's legacy. "Our family is absolutely appalled by the untruths being spread about Stephen," she wrote. "He doesn't deserve this, and neither do his kids. We will not stand by while his name and memory are tarnished."

The backlash follows Holker's interview with People magazine, where she described finding drugs, including mush-

rooms and pills, hidden in shoeboxes after Boss' death. Holker stated that the discovery was shocking and revealed parts of her husband's life she hadn't known. The revelations, featured in her upcoming memoir *This Far: My Story of Love, Loss, and Embracing the Light*, have been met with outrage from Boss' family, who dispute the claims. His brother, Dré Rose, insisted that Boss was not an addict, while a cousin accused Holker of attempting to "tarnish his legacy" and isolating his family from his children.

## Dayton Art Institute Announces Its 2025 Exhibition Lineup

The Dayton Art Institute (DAI) is excited to announce an impressive lineup of exhibitions for 2025, highlighted by three Special Exhibitions: Jamie Wyeth: Unsettled; Curtis Barnes, Sr., Dayton Icon and The Triumph of Nature: Art Nouveau from the Chrysler Museum of Art, and eight diverse Focus Exhibitions.

The 2025 Special Exhibitions:

The 2025 Special Exhibition schedule kicks off in March with Jamie Wyeth: Unsettled, on view March 15–June 8, 2025. Jamie Wyeth, a distinguished figure in contemporary art, is widely recognized for his independent, realistic approach. Unsettled follows Wyeth's entire career and looks at a specifically darker thread within his oeuvre of troubling and unnerving imagery, frequently countered and even hidden by the artist's fuller body of work—particularly his well-known coastal views and farm-scapes. The exhibition is divided into three distinct sections: "Strangers and Specters;" "Natural and Supernatural Worlds;" and "Haunted Places and Disturbing Spaces." Drawn from museums and private collections from across the country, the DAI is the exclusive Ohio venue and the final stop for this major traveling exhibition organized by the Brandywine Museum of Art.

A DAI-exclusive exhibition will showcase the work of Curtis Barnes, Sr., a painter and educator who was a longtime fixture in Dayton's art scene. His bold, colorful and experimental paintings are a distinctive blend of naturalism with abstraction. He frequently pictured the people in his life and made powerful self-portraits. His influence is found today in his students, many still working in the Dayton area, as well as his 1992 co-founding (with artist Willis "Bing" Davis) of the African American Visual Artists Guild. Barnes was presented the Paul Laurence Dunbar Humanitarian Award in 1994 and the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Ohio Arts Council in 2008 for his contributions. Presented during the 90th anniversary of Barnes' birth year, this exhibition is a celebration of his life and art drawn from the collections of his family and friends, organized by the Dayton Art Institute. Cur-



tis Barnes, Sr., Dayton Icon is on view July 12–September 14, 2025.

Closing out the 2025 exhibition season is The Triumph of Nature: Art Nouveau from the Chrysler Museum of Art, on view October 18, 2025–January 11, 2026. The Triumph of Nature presents the refined, ever-popular and elegant curvilinear designs and nature-based motifs of Art Nouveau. More than 120 turn-of-the-20th century treasures are included, with works by Tiffany, Mucha, Gallé, Beardsley and many others. Diverse mediums, including furniture, paintings, sculpture, mosaics, books, posters, prints, lamps, glass art and more highlight the innovative ways artists made harmonious visual arrangements. The DAI is the exclusive Ohio venue for this major traveling exhibition. The Triumph of Nature: Art Nouveau from the Chrysler Museum of Art is organized by the Chrysler Museum of Art, Norfolk, VA and toured by International Arts & Artists, Washington, DC.

The 2025 Focus Exhibitions:

In addition to the Special Exhibitions, the museum will present several Focus Exhibitions based around various themes. The 2025 Focus Exhibition season will kick off with an exciting presentation of work by some of the most prominent artists working in the 20th century, including Andy Warhol, Roy Lichtenstein, James Rosenquist, Lee Bontecou and Edward Ruscha in the Focus Exhibition A Taste for Pop: Gifts from S. Bradley Gillaugh on view January 25–May 25, 2025. The exhibition highlights gifts from a single donor, Dayton native Stephen Bradley "Brad" Gillaugh. Featuring a collection of contemporary styles, particularly pop art, the exhibition showcases artists Gillaugh worked with during his career as an exhibition coordinator and consultant in New York and California.

Other Scheduled Focus Exhibitions include:

Kind of Funny, on view February 8–May 4, 2025

Themes in Yoshitoshi's 100 Aspects of the Moon:

Heroism & Loyalty, on view April 12–July 13, 2025

Mystery & Magic, on view July 19–October 19, 2025

Love & Longing, on view October 25, 2025–January 25, 2026

Cats in Art / Dogs in Art, on view June 18–September 14, 2025

Wonders in Color: Art by Alexander Calder & Others, on view June 18–October 26, 2025

Strange Worlds: Photographs by Jay Hoops, on view October 4, 2025–January 4, 2026

Engaged: Rings from around the World, on view November 8, 2025–April 19, 2026

Dayton Printmakers Cooperative: Dayton/Kyoto Invitational, on view December 6, 2025–February 22, 2026

For more information and updates about both Special and Focus Exhibitions at the DAI, go to [www.daytonartinstitute.org/exhibitions](http://www.daytonartinstitute.org/exhibitions).

Admission to the DAI includes access to all Special and Focus Exhibitions currently on view, as well as the museum collection galleries. General admission is \$15 adults; \$10 seniors (60+), active military and groups (10 or more); \$5 students (18+ w/ID) and youth (ages 7–17); and free for children (ages 6 & younger). Admission is free for museum members. Membership information can be found online at [www.daytonartinstitute.org/membership](http://www.daytonartinstitute.org/membership).

For more information about planning a visit, including current museum hours and updates, go to [www.daytonartinstitute.org/visit](http://www.daytonartinstitute.org/visit) or call 937-223-4ART (4278). Connect with the Dayton Art Institute on Facebook, X, Instagram, YouTube and Pinterest for additional information, behind-the-scenes photos and videos and exclusive offers.

# Editorial & Comments

## Something to Consider:

## Finding Encouragement for All Seasons

By: Brenda Cochran  
Contributing Writer

One fact is certain. We have to live with and through all phases of our lives and hold on to the knowing that each phase is just temporary. Each season or phase has its own value, and allows the growth. We learn to embrace the good times, lean on our faith through those difficult periods, and just like all the seasons, change is inevitable, leading us to new beginnings and the opportunity for the renewal of our lives.

Some of our seasons are full of joy while others are full of long hardships, but one thing that remains the same is our faithfulness of God. If we look back to the year 2024, it would have been very difficult to have feelings of joy because for most people, the days were full of cold, dreary days and lots of snow. If you remember these days, it seemed that we would never rid our lives of cold days that were full of snow.

Even though we don't have the desire to just love parts of the year, but it would be so good to be able to embrace all of them, even the things that are painful.

If we are meant to live our lives through



Brenda Cochran

Christ, it is meant to be different and adventure-some, but the only way that we can have to provide for us is to learn how to be happy and contented no matter what our circumstances may be.

You may be thinking about what it really means to be content? Being content doesn't mean we don't like change. We all have things and events in our lives that are not right in the areas that we want to improve them. When you are content in Christ, you can have joy while God is working on those unwelcomed situations.

When we really maintain our trust in God, we can achieve this, but we just have to learn how to embrace not just the good things, but also the difficult things.

There are many who absolutely hate their lives. Why not just take the word hate out of your language. There are some who al-

ways say – they hate to drive in traffic; they hate to do laundry, their job, to clean the house, or mow the grass, the way they look and on and on. How can we expect to be content and enjoy life if we hate everything?

Think about this. Some people have formed the habit of saying once a day – I Love God! I love myself, my family, the work I do- I just love life!!

Some people are just tempted to think that the painful times in their lives are never going to end and may feel like they cannot stand it any longer, but they can. They can make a decision to believe more than what they believe or what others think or feel, but what God's word is true no matter how things look.

No matter how cold or dismal the days are or how difficult your circumstances are, the following statements are true:

**God will be faithful to you because that is His very nature. (Deut.32:4)**

**God knows all about your situations you are never alone. (Ps. 139:1-5)**

**God can meet all of your needs and equip you for every phase of life. (Phil. 4:19).**

**You will change and seasons will change, but God is always the same.**

## DML's Annual Teen Art Contest

Dayton Metro Library will begin accepting submissions for its annual Teen Art Contest on Saturday, February 1. Teens residing in or attending school in Montgomery County can pick up an entry form at any DML Branch. Submissions must be turned in to any DML Branch by Friday, February 28 (with the completed entry form), with one entry per teen.

Grade categories are

7-9 and 10-12. Art categories are watercolor, pencil, photography, oil/acrylic, 3D/sculpture, and mixed/other medium. Artist names may only appear on the entry form. Entries must be original works and should not be previously entered in any contest or published. Fan art and AI-generated works are prohibited. Entries should be appropriate for a general audience.

The winners in each

category will be notified by Thursday, March 6. Contestant artwork will be displayed at the Main Library in the Third Street Bridge Gallery beginning Monday, March 3.

For more information, visit [DaytonMetroLibrary.org/teenartcontest](http://DaytonMetroLibrary.org/teenartcontest) or call the Library's Ask Me Line at 937.463.2665.

# Education

## Sinclair Community College Sees Highest Spring Term Enrollment Growth in 10 Years



Sinclair Community College began classes this week with its highest Spring term enrollment since 2014. As of Monday, January 13, the first day of Spring term 2025, overall enrollment at Sinclair is up 9% compared to the prior year.

This milestone is on the heels of a successful Fall term, which also saw decade-high enrollment exceeding 19,400 students. Nationwide, college enrollment is still recovering post-pandemic. Public 2-year institutions have experienced a 5% growth nationally during the 2024-2025 academic year, while Sinclair Community College surpassed these figures with enrollment gains exceeding 10% overall.

Other positive enrollment trends at Sinclair Community College include:

- Enrollment among new students, those attending Sinclair for the first time, is up nearly 20% compared to last Spring.
- The College is also seeing significant growth

in the number of “former students,” those who were previously enrolled at Sinclair but stopped attending for at least two years. The number of returning students who have re-enrolled is up 9% over last year.

- Sinclair’s College Credit Plus (CCP) Program is seeing its highest numbers yet (up more than 10% for Spring term) and is expected to serve over 11,400 students this year.

- Adult learners over the age of 25, who comprise a considerable share of Sinclair’s student enrollment, are also trending up by 11%.

- Enrollment among racial and ethnic minority students is up over 13% compared to last Spring.
- Students are opting for a mix of course types, with growth at campus centers and sites for in-person courses (7%), as well as increases in online course registrations (9%).

This is in addition to over a dozen new degrees and certificates offered to Sinclair students. Sinclair Community College introduced fourteen (14) new degrees and certificates for

the 2024-2025 academic year that are preparing students quickly and for less money to meet the needs of employers in the region.

New Sinclair College Degrees and Certificates:

- Associate Degrees:
    - Biology Education
    - Biomedical Engineering Technology Manufacturing Engineering Technology Quality Engineering Technology
  - Certificates:
    - Advanced Air Mobility Maintenance Technician
    - Advanced Quality Histotechnology Mechanical Problem Solver
    - Mechanical Technician
    - Nutrition Associate
    - Semiconductor Fundamentals
    - Semiconductor Maintenance Technician
    - Transportation Construction Inspection Level 1
    - Transportation Construction Inspection Level 2
- For details on Sinclair Community College’s academic offerings and student services, visit: [www.sinclair.edu](http://www.sinclair.edu).

### U.S. Department of Education Awards \$900K Grant to Sinclair Community College...

*Continued from Page 1*

will provide Sinclair’s Accessibility Services Dept. additional resources to further meet the needs of Sinclair students.

While Sinclair continues to serve its students, faculty, and staff with comprehensive support services, reasonable accommodation, and advocacy, the Basic Needs for Postsecondary Students Program grant will allow for improved student access to education counseling, peer

support groups, as well as additional awareness of both on-and-off-campus mental health resources.

Furthermore, additional counseling staff will help increase their capacity to offer evidence-based supported education counseling. This will enable staff to identify the needs of students earlier, thus reducing the number of cases that could impact college persistence and will create more opportunities

to connect students with the resources they need.

Sinclair’s Student Resilience Center is already underway for the Spring 2025 term through the college’s Accessibility Services Dept., located in Building 10 of the Dayton Campus, 444 W. Third St. Dayton, OH 45402. Visit Sinclair’s Accessibility Dept. Webpage to Learn More.

## DML Holds College Test Prep Study Halls

Dayton Metro Library will be offering Future You: ACT/SAT Study Hall sessions at several Branches for teens interested in dropping in for college test prep help.

Teens will be able to access a variety of free digital print ACT and SAT prep resources available through DML, including full-length practice tests. Teens need not stay the entire time of the session, as test progress can be saved and completed later. However, those wishing to take all the sections of either practice test should anticipate using the full session.

DML Library Cards are required for the study

sessions. Students can sign up in advance or at the time of the study hall session for their student card to ensure they can access DML’s free resources from home. Registration is not required for any of the sessions.

Branch Schedule for Future You: ACT/SAT Study Hall:

Friday, January 17, 12-3:30 pm, Main Library, 1st Floor Tech Lab B

\*Please note: The Main Library observes Quiet Study Time from 2-6 pm, Monday-Friday. When teens arrive at the main door, they should let staff know they are there for the Study Hall session.

Thursday, January 23, 4:30-8 pm, Southeast Branch

Saturday, January 25, 10 am-1:30 pm, Vandalia Branch

Tuesday, January 28, 4:30-8 pm, West Branch

Thursday, January 30, 5-8 pm, Trotwood Branch

Saturday, February 1, 10 am-1:30 pm, West Carrollton Branch

For more information, visit [DaytonMetroLibrary.org](http://DaytonMetroLibrary.org) or call the Library’s Ask Me Line at 937.463.2665.

## BLACK UNITY

Conference 2025

Diversity Office

Register Here: [2025.BlackUnityConferenceRegistration.ORG](http://2025.BlackUnityConferenceRegistration.ORG)

FREE & Open to the Public!

Visit: [www.sinclair.edu/diversity](http://www.sinclair.edu/diversity)

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2025**  
Sinclair Dayton Campus

**10:00 AM & 1:30 PM – Visit Exhibits**

- **Our American Journey**  
Bldg. 11, Room 322  
Sinclair’s Chief Diversity Officer, Michael Carter, has compiled his personal mementos of Black History memorabilia, including a diverse range of objects and documents for you to “Remember, Reflect, and React”.
- **All Jokes Aside: Black Empowerment in Comedy**  
Bldg. 11, Room 322 (lobby)  
On loan by Ohio History Connection - National Afro-American Museum and Cultural Center.
- **African American Visual Artists Guild’s Exhibit**  
Bldg. 7 Library, Upper Loggia area  
The African American Visual Artists Guild (AAVAG), of Dayton, Ohio was born out of the need to express visually the African American experience through a wide range of styles and subject matter using many diverse approaches and materials with a focus on communicating the artist’s own spirituality.

**11:00 AM – Daughter of the Struggle**  
Sinclair Dayton Campus, Bldg. 2, Blair Hall

A powerful one woman show written and performed by **Ayanna Gregory**.  
An incredible true story about the legendary Human Rights Activist **DICK GREGORY** through the lens of his daughter Ayanna Gregory and the family that loves him. With powerful stories and songs that lift the human spirit, Ayanna shares her unforgettable journey as a child of the civil rights Movement. Set in a climate of lynchings, fire hoses, death threats and racial injustice, this is the story of a young girl’s courageous march to find her own wings. *Daughter Of The Struggle* chronicles one family’s fierce commitment to change the course of American history and their willingness to die for freedom.

**12:30 PM – Lunch & Table discussion (free to all)**  
Sinclair Conference Center, Bldg. 12, Charity Earley Auditorium

## DML Has the Write Programs

Dayton Metro Library offers a variety of programs for adults and teens who appreciate putting pen to paper, that range from therapeutic and expression to tribute and zine writing.

Human Race Theatre Creative Writing Workshop

Patrons will learn the benefits of therapeutic writing while exploring themes from Yaa Gyasi’s Homegoing (NEA’s 2025 Big Read selection). (Adults and Teens)

Saturday, January 25, 1-2 pm, Southeast Branch

Thursday, February 13, 6-7 pm, Huber Heights Branch

The Writer’s Pen DCDC Presented by Muse Machine

Dayton Contemporary

Dance Company (DCDC) and Muse Machine join forces as DCDC expressionists deliver poetry in motion to reflect the modernization of Shakespeare’s sonnets to the poetic verse of Rap and Hip-Hop artists. (Adults)

Thursday, January 30, 5-7 pm, Kettering-Moraine Branch

Thursday, February 6, 6-7 pm, Northwest Branch

Obituary Writing Presented by Woodland Cemetery & Arboretum, learn what makes a good obituary and how to begin writing one. Registration is required. (Adults)

Saturday, February 1, 10-11 am, Miami Township Branch

Open Writers’ Group Meet with other writers to discuss interests and share camaraderie. Registration is required – limited spots remain for this session, but this group will meet the first Monday of every month through May. (Adults)

Monday, February 3, 7-8 pm, Wilmington-Stroop Branch

Use Your Voice: ZINES A Zine is a magazine that one makes and publishes themselves. In this program, patrons will review zines from Black creators and make their own. This program is part of DML’s Black History Month programming. (Teens)

Wednesday, February 5, 4-5:30 pm, Southeast Branch

For more information and to register if required, visit [DaytonMetroLibrary.org](http://DaytonMetroLibrary.org) or call the Library’s Ask Me Line at 937.463.2665.

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated®

Beta Eta Omega Chapter

Join us in the ongoing celebration of the 90th Anniversary of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.® Beta Eta Omega Chapter.

## 90th Anniversary Archival Exhibit

January 13, 2025 - February 28, 2025


Dayton Metro Library Main Branch

215 E. Third St. Dayton, OH 45402

Second floor, Outside the Dayton Room

This exhibit highlights a few of the many achievements by Beta Eta Omega Chapter, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.® throughout the last nine decades. It is a curated collection of unique artifacts, photographs, and documents dating back to the founding of the Chapter in June 1934 to the present day.

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**SERVICE SCHEDULE**  
Adult Bible Study - Sunday 9 AM  
Worship Service - Sunday 8 AM & 10:30 AM  
Sunday School - Sunday 10:30AM

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**(937) 222-0867**  
**FAX: (937) 222-7336**

**SUNDAY**  
Sunday School.....8:30 a.m.  
Morning Worship Services.....10:00 a.m.

**WEDNESDAY**  
AM Prayer Meeting.....9:30 a.m.  
Bible Study.....11:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.

**Saturday**  
Bible Study.....11:00 a.m.

**Pastor Cory J. Pruitt**  
1501 W. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Way, Dayton, OH, 45412

**WAYMAN CHAPEL A.M.E. CHURCH**  
3317 Hoover Avenue ~ Dayton, Ohio 45407  
**Rev. Gerald A. Cooper, Pastor**

937-268-6729 ~ Office      937-267-9804 ~ Fax

**SUNDAY**  
Church School                      9:00 a.m.  
Worship Services                10:00 a.m.


**WEDNESDAY**  
Prayer Meeting/Bible Study    Noon

**THURSDAY**  
Food & Clothing Pantry 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

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**Rev. Elmer S. Martin, Pastor**  
1620 West Fifth Street  
Dayton, OH 45402-2910  
Church Phone: 937-223-5115  
Fax: 937-223-8872  
Email: greater\_allen\_ame@att.net



**Church Sunday School.....9:15 a.m.**  
Sunday Worship.....10:45 a.m.  
Women's Bible Study - Monday.....6:30 p.m.  
Noonday Bible Study - Wednesday.....12:00 p.m.  
Prayer Meeting - Wednesday.....7:00 p.m.  
Bible Study - Wednesday.....7:30 p.m.

**Believers Christian Fellowship Church**



3010 McCall Street, Dayton, OH 45417  
Tel. No.: 937-279-9343, Fax: 937-279-9342  
Toll Free: 1-844-679-9343  
email:bcfchurch@swohio.twcbc.com

**Rev. Dr. William E. Harris, Jr. Senior Pastor**

Sunday Service.....9:30 a.m.  
Church School - Sunday.....8:45 a.m.  
& Wednesday.....1:00 p.m.  
Bible Study/Prayer Meeting - Every  
Wednesday starting at.....6:00 p.m.

Check out our website: www.believers-christian.org  
Listen to our weekly radio show every Sunday at 8 am on 98.7 FM

**Zion Baptist Church**  
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**(937) 275-6906**  
**Fax 276-6267**

**Rev. Dr. Rockney Carter, Senior Pastor**

**Sunday**  
Church School.....9:30 a.m.  
Morning Worship.....11:00 a.m.  
Tues. Bible Study.....6:00 p.m.  
Wed. Prayer Meeting.....6:00 p.m.

**Other Ministry**  
email: rockney.carter@gmail.com  
1684 Earllham Drive • Dayton, OH 45406

**Bethel Missionary Baptist Church**  
401 S. Paul Laurence Dunbar St. - Dayton, Ohio 45407  
**Rev. Xavier L. Johnson, Senior Pastor**  
937-222-4373 - Office - Email: offices@bmbcdayton.org



**SUNDAYS**  
Church School                      9:30 a.m.  
Morning Worship                10:45 a.m.

**WEDNESDAY**  
Bible Study                        12:00 noon  
Word & Worship                6:30 p.m.

Bethel services are aired on DSTV Time Warner Wednesdays at 3:00 p.m. and Saturdays at 9:00 p.m. Time Warner Cable 992

**ZION HILL MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH**  
Rev. Dr. Junior F. Greenlee - Pastor

Church School.....9:00 AM  
Morning Worship.....10:55 AM  
Wed. Prayer Service.....6:00 PM

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Fax 263-0627  
1900 W. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Way

**Ethan Temple Seventh Day Adventist Church**  
4000 Shiloh Springs Road, Clayton, Ohio 45315  
(937) 837-9326 • www.ethantemplesda.org



Services Each Saturday:  
Sabbath School                      9:15 a.m.  
Morning Worship                11:00 a.m.  
Mid Week Prayer Service        7:00 p.m.  
Dr. William T. Cox, Sr., Pastor

**SHILOH BAPTIST CHURCH**  
3801 Fairbanks Avenue  
Office: 937-268-6711 Fax: 937-221-8040



**Rev. Dr. Marcettes Cunningham, D.Min., Pastor**

Sunday School 9:30 a.m.  
Morning Worship 10:45 a.m.  
Wednesday  
Prayer/Bible Study, 12:00 & 7:00 p.m.  
Evening Prayer, 6:30 p.m.

**Dixon United Methodist Church**  
1691 Infirmary Rd. - Dayton, OH 45417



Church Phone: (937) 835-3366  
Email: Dixonumc1691@gmail.com  
Website: Dixonumcdayton.org

Sunday School.....10:00 a.m.  
Sunday Morning Worship.....11:00 a.m.  
Midweek Bible Study- Wednesday.....6:00-7:30 p.m. Via Zoom  
Prayer Meeting - Saturday.....10:00 a.m.  
Text In Prayer Request 1-888-646-9678

**Dr. Bridget D. Weatherspoon, Pastor**

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# Religion

## DML Roundtable Programs Address Special Needs

Dayton Metro Library's Special Needs Family Information Roundtable program continues into February with the following programs.

Special Needs Family Information Roundtable: Understanding the Special Education Evaluation Process:

Guest speakers will discuss the special education evaluation process. Time is allotted for questions and answers. Parents and caregivers are encouraged to bring their children.

Thursday, January 23, 6-8 pm, West Branch

Special Needs Family Information Roundtable: Tartan Tops:

Sinclair Community College's Tartan TOPS (Transition Option in Post-Secondary Education) Program provides a post-secondary educational/career pathway for part-time students with intellectual or developmental disabilities. Faculty and Program Coordinator Tristan

Chaput will provide an overview of how Tartan Tops prepares students for academic and career success. Time is allotted for questions and answers, as well as for talking and networking. Adults and teens are both welcome to attend.

Monday, February 10, 10 am-12 pm, Kettering-Moraine Branch

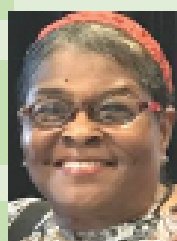
Special Needs Family Information Roundtable: Understanding IEPs and 504s:

Guest speaker Dawn Millhouse, a parent mentor for Centerville and Oakwood Schools, will be present to speak about IEPs and 504s. A Sinclair Community College representative for the Tartan TOPS will also be on hand with information about the Tartan TOPS (Transition Option in Post-Secondary Education) Program. (Families)


Thursday, February 27, 6-8 pm, West Branch

For more information, visit DaytonMetroLibrary.org or call the Library's Ask Me Line at 937.463.2665.

**YOUR SOUL MATTERS: Predictable Happiness vs Unspeakable Joy 01132025**



**Pamelajune Banks-Anderson, D.Min.**  
The Radically Inclusive Veteran Chaplain  
LCDR (RET) US Navy Chaplain Corps  
[droianderson@spaceforgrace.org](mailto:droianderson@spaceforgrace.org)



**BE STILL, AND YOUR SOUL WILL SPEAK**

"<sup>19</sup> Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, <sup>20</sup> idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, <sup>21</sup> envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. <sup>22</sup> But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, <sup>23</sup> gentleness, self-control. Against such, there is no law. <sup>24</sup> And those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires." Galatians 5:19-24 New King James Version

WHATEVER A MAN  
**DEPENDS ON**  
WHATEVER  
**RULES HIS MIND**  
WHATEVER GOVERNS  
**HIS AFFECTIONS**  
WHATEVER IS THE  
**CHIEF OBJECT OF HIS DELIGHT**  
IS HIS  
**GOD!**

The biblical definition of joy is a feeling of good pleasure dependent on who Jesus is. Joy comes from the Holy Spirit, abiding in God's presence, and from hope in His word. Joy is also a Fruit of the Spirit. On the other hand, happiness is a feeling of contentment or satisfaction in the present moment based on what we do and how we behave. It can be fleeting and unpredictable, as it's based on external factors and reflects something happening to you.

Happiness is an emotion like sadness triggered by situations, people, events, or even thoughts.

According to Katherine Atherton, a therapist at the Optimum Performance Institute in California, joy is internal and connected to a more authentic life. To have joy, you must do inner work, identifying your values and strengths and aligning your life with them. Yes, joy is an emotion. However, it's not based on external events. In other words, it is an inside job.

The Bible mentions happiness <sup>34</sup> times, whereas Joy is mentioned over five hundred times. I would rather have five hundred-plus references. What about you?

Once I began understanding God as the Joy and Strength of my life, it is my preference over happiness. We used to sing a song in the hometown church: "If you want joy, real joy, wonderful joy. Let Jesus come into my heart."

LOVE YE ONE ANOTHER

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# Sports

## Notre Dame and Ohio State Arrive in Atlanta



ATLANTA (AP) — Ohio State and Notre Dame arrived in Atlanta on charter flights Friday as the teams moved closer to the College Football Playoff national championship game Monday night.

The Buckeyes are big favorites but the Fighting Irish might have an advantage. Coach Marcus Freeman's team has previously played in Atlanta — and in Mercedes-Benz Stadium — this season.

In a game that strengthened Notre Dame's playoff hopes, the Fighting Irish beat Georgia Tech 31-13 on Oct. 19 as quarterback Riley Leonard ran for two touchdowns.

Is the familiarity with the stadium an advantage for Notre Dame?

"We hope so," Freeman said at the Atlanta airport. "Now we are on the other side of the field and in a different locker room, but we have played here. We know what it's like. Each team will have two opportunities to go into the stadium and practice so by the time

Monday gets here I think both teams will be comfortable with the environment."

The Buckeyes opened as 9.5-point favorites, according to BetMGM Sportsbook.

Atlanta is the home of the College Football Hall of Fame and is the self-proclaimed "Capital of College Football." The city hosts the Peach Bowl, Southeastern Conference championship game and such other high-profile games such as the Chick-fil-A Kickoff game.

Atlanta is a short drive from Athens and the University of Georgia, which won the 2021 and 2022 national championships. The South's claim to be the base of power in the game is up for debate as Ohio State could give the Big Ten its second consecutive national champion and Notre Dame also traveled from the Midwest.

Michigan beat Washington in last year's title game to give the Big Ten its first national championship in football since Ohio State's last title in 2014.

Notre Dame (14-1) and Ohio State (13-2) survived the first 12-game playoff

to reach the championship game.

Ohio State coach Ryan Day said he believes his team prepared well for the long season.

"We talked about it all year," Day said minutes after exiting the plane. "I think we are. Our energy actually picked up week in and week out. I feel the momentum. You know, when you have momentum, you've got to keep it. I feel like we've continued to get stronger as the season's gone on.

"We've had a plan on how we are going to do that. And so now again, we have to be at our best. The whole plan has been to get to this point right now. And so we have got more days to get prepared to go do it."

Freeman said the playoff schedule included "a lot of meaningful games."

"You don't play in the national championship every week," Freeman said. "We know that. But we've played in a lot of meaningful games and we understand what the expectations are. Monday will be different. We know the excitement and the lights will be brighter."

## Dayton-born Baker to be on Food Network's 'Kids Baking Championship'



A young baker from Dayton will be featured on Food Network's "Kids Baking Championship."

Twelve-year-old Brooklyn Barrett is one of 12 contestants in the upcoming "Kids Baking Championship," which began earlier this month.

Speaking with Brooklyn and her mother Courtney briefly shows how baking has formed a strong bond between the two, as well as opportunities for growth

and learning.

"I started watching Food Network when I was like four, three years old," says Brooklyn over Zoom.

"We used baking for Brooklyn to serve as a tutoring platform so that she could get better with math because she was struggling when she started with fractions and measurements," Courtney says.

What started as a means to an end became a passion.

"I really like baking. I don't like decorating that

much. I just really like making dessert, making fillings. And then the best part about it is that you get to taste test, because sometimes the case not the right size and you get a couple all, we might as well eat it," Brooklyn explains.

Her passion for baking has already taken her far, but beyond the championship, that love has also baked up the taste for her own business. Courtney began a bakery on wheels and her daughter hopes to one day take it over.

## Marcus Freeman's Brother Speaks About Family, Football



Marcus (left), Mike (middle) and their father on Mike's wedding day. (Courtesy Mike Freeman)

COLUMBUS, Ohio — Marcus Freeman, the head football coach of Notre Dame, has strong ties to Ohio.

He grew up near Dayton, went to Huber Heights Wayne High School and then played football at Ohio State. Now, he finds himself coaching against his alma mater. His older brother shared more about what the last few years have been like for their family and what it will be like to cheer against cheering Ohio State in the National Championship.

At the Freeman household, family is everything. "This is my dad and my brother when I was getting married," Mike Freeman said of a wedding picture.

For Mike, he shares that lesson with his son, something he learned being an older brother to Marcus.

"Being two year difference between us, we just had the normal like sibling fights and everything was competition," Mike said. "It was just always like, who was better?"

Mike and his younger brother, Marcus, played many sports, but football was the one that stuck. Marcus started varsity at Huber Heights Wayne High School by the end of his freshman year.

"By the time we got to high school, coach was seeing potential in him," Mike said.

"It was instilled to us to be Ohio State fans," Mike said. "When you're out there and playing in the backyard and you're like, 'who are you?' You're like, 'I'm the running back for Ohio State,' you know? And I'm Eddie George."

Marcus was a four-year letter winning linebacker for the Buckeyes and Mike played at Wittenberg. But the two always supported each other.

"Supporting each other was important to us," Mike said. "Watching him in high school, just get that recognition and acknowledgment and the opportunity to go to a school like Ohio State, was something that we really cherished."

Fast forward to today, Mike's little brother is now the head coach at Notre Dame.

"Once he got the head coaching job, like, we knew it was a high-profile job," Mike said. "I don't think any of us understood what that meant. And so I think that's where we're like, we're still even today learning like, wow, you're famous man."

Mike and his wife haven't missed a college football playoff game yet, and this time around will bring along their son, as well as Mike and Marcus' parents, something Marcus insisted upon.

"Although his focus is going to be a game, I do

think it's like a comfort thing for him to have his family there," Mike said. "He knows, like out of all the supporters that he has from the Huber Heights city area, and Notre Dame and everything, like his family is like people that he knows he can always count on that. They'll have his back."

But this game is different. Marcus is coaching against his former team in the National Championship.

"You grew up there, like that's who you root for as a child," Mike said. "That's where you play that you have all this respect for them. It's now the next thing. It's like you have to beat, you have to beat them. And we just I just always will be Ohio State fan. But obviously I'll be a, I'm a Notre Dame Marcus Freeman fan."

Mike says his fandom will always be with his family. "People are like, so do you hate Ohio State? No, there's no hate towards them," Mike said. "Like, we are Ohio State fans majority of the year. Unfortunately, when they have to play against your brother or something, I'm always going to pick blood over water."

"And to have a kid that is honestly just amazing, heaven sent, it's like a dream come true. I wouldn't trade it for the world."

"I'll probably take over the bus. And I would teach classes on them and I plan on doing a international themed bus where each week we go to a different place in the world."

The two are proof that with hard work and deter-

mination you can do what you set your mind to.

"I was just that girl from the west side of Dayton, Ohio, who had a baby at 19 and had to move back home and everybody told me that I wouldn't make it," Courtney reflects.

# Health

## Central State University Redefining Excellence in Agriculture, Behavioral Health Research and Innovation



Dr. Katrina Swinehart

Central State University is a catalyst for transformative education and research, paving the way for groundbreaking discoveries and societal change. The HBCU located in Wilberforce, Ohio, blends academic rigor with a deep commitment to addressing pressing global challenges.

A legacy of innovation as an 1890 Land-Grant Institution

Central State, Ohio's only public HBCU and 1890 Land-Grant Institution, carries a proud tradition of advancing agricultural innovation, education and outreach. This designation, reserved for select Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), underscores CSU's pivotal role in addressing agricultural challenges while fostering student success.

One of CSU's stand-out initiatives is a project led by Dr. Saima Bashir, supported by the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA). This United States Department of Education (USDA)-funded collaboration tackles declining workforce participation and misconceptions about careers in agriculture. By partnering with Prairie View A&M University, another 1890 Land-Grant Institution, the program expands

students' understanding of agriculture as a field rich with opportunities in technology, marketing and sustainable development.

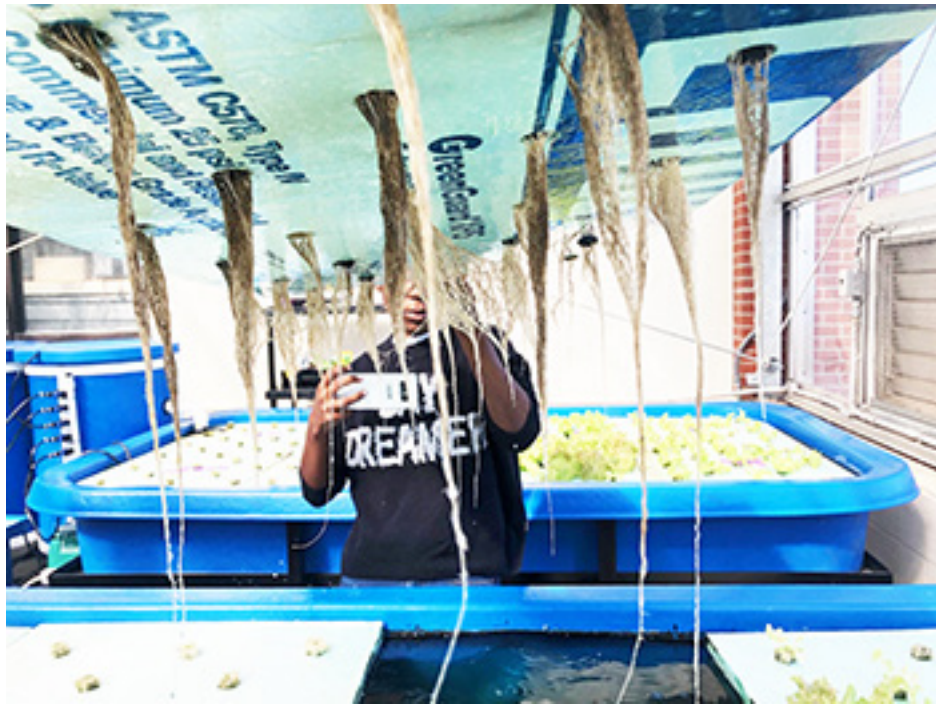
"Many students see agriculture as limited to manual labor," explained Bashir, professor of Business Administration in the College of Business. "Our goal is to show them the industry's broader potential — from finance and tech to advocacy and education."

The program includes scholarships for non-agriculture majors, immersive coursework and networking events, giving students real-world exposure to agricultural careers. Participants attend industry events like the Farm Science Review, where they connect with professionals and explore career pathways.

Dr. Katrina Swinehart, an agricultural education expert, emphasizes the transformative impact. "We're reshaping perceptions by showing students how agriculture can address critical issues like food insecurity and community development," she said. "These lessons are applicable across countless industries."

Since the project's launch, enrollment in CSU's agriculture-related programs has surged, reflecting growing awareness about this vital field.

Poised to address behavioral health disparities CSU's innovative spirit extends beyond agriculture. The Racial and Ethnic Behavioral Health (REBH) study, spearheaded by Dr. Greta Winbush of the College of Humanities, Arts, Social Sciences, and Education (CHASE), is another groundbreaking initiative. This research stems from a partnership with the Mental Health & Addiction Advocacy Coalition, Multiethnic Advocates for Cultural Competence, and Ohio



University. The study highlights systemic barriers faced by minority professionals in behavioral health, aiming to foster a more inclusive workforce.

"Behavioral health professionals should reflect the communities they serve," Winbush explained. "Our research identifies gaps and inequities, laying the foundation for systemic change."

The REBH study involves statewide data collection and collaboration with policymakers to improve support for Black, Indigenous and other people of color in the behavioral health field. Students play a central role in research, gaining invaluable experience while contributing to meaning-

ful change. "Student involvement enriches our work and prepares them to address disparities in their careers," Winbush added.

Driving innovation in microelectronics Central State University is advancing research and workforce development in the rapidly evolving field of microelectronics. As part of the Midwest Microelectronics Consortium (MMEC), CSU plays a pivotal role in the National Science Foundation Regional Innovation Engines project, which seeks to secure \$160 million in funding over the next decade. This initiative underscores the university's commitment to leading-edge innovation and training the next generation of skilled professionals in microelectronics.

In December, CSU hosted a visit from MMEC leadership to strengthen its collaboration on the NSF Engine proposal. The visit marked a critical step in fostering semiconductor research and expanding educational opportunities. The partnership positions CSU as a key contributor to national efforts addressing the growing demand for a robust microelectronics workforce.

Adding to these efforts, CSU has announced its Intel-sponsored 2025 Summer Internship Program, designed to engage women and underrepresented minorities in microelectronics. This program, hosted at Central State University, Wright State University and the University of Michigan, provides participants with hands-on experience, mentorship from industry leaders and access to cutting-edge technology.

Ultimately, Intel Semiconductor Education Program at CSU (ISEP-CSU) aims to prepare a diverse and dynamic workforce

for the challenges of tomorrow. The initiative equips students with the skills needed to excel in microelectronics and fosters inclusivity in an industry vital to global innovation.

Through initiatives like the MMEC partnership and the Intel-sponsored internship program, Central State University continues to position itself as a leader in research, education and workforce development in one of the world's most critical technological sectors.

Students as changemakers

At CSU, students aren't just observers — they're active contributors to cutting-edge research. For instance, Social Work senior Madison Kidd said, "My experience being on the REBH research team has not only enhanced my research abilities but also reinforced my commitment to contributing to meaningful change in mental health care access."

Similarly, students in the USDA-NIFA initiative are gaining hands-on experience that prepares them for leadership roles across diverse sectors.

"Our mission is to show students how their skills translate across industries," Bashir said. "Agriculture, for instance, offers



Dr. Saima Bashir

platforms for innovation in technology, education and business."

The role of philanthropy in driving progress

Philanthropic support is crucial to CSU's mission of academic excellence and innovation. Donations fund scholarships, research opportunities and state-of-the-art resources that empower students and faculty to thrive.

"Every contribution directly impacts our ability to transform lives," said Rebecca Kocher, Vice President of the Division of Institutional Advancement and Executive Director of the Central State University Foundation. "It's an investment in the future."

A key opportunity to support CSU is the historic Inauguration Week, celebrating the installation of Dr. Morakinyo A.O. Kuti as the university's 10th President. Signature events like the Scholarship Luncheon and A Night of International Celebration will directly benefit students, ensuring the continuation of transformative programs.

A vision for the future CSU's commitment to innovation, inclusion and impact is reshaping higher education. Projects like the USDA-NIFA and REBH initiatives exemplify the university's dedication to addressing societal challenges while empowering underrepresented communities.

"Our legacy is one of resilience and progress," Winbush said. "By investing in our students, we're shaping a brighter, more equitable future."

Through the support of partners, donors and passionate advocates, CSU continues to inspire change and redefine what's possible in education and research.

To learn more about these and other groundbreaking initiatives, visit the Central State University Newsroom.

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