



Reclaiming Dr. King's Legacy

Unity Prayer Breakfast

MIKE AND JOSIE HARPER CENTER

Ahmanson Ballroom

January 10, 2024 | 8 a.m.

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

Devin Owens

*Director of Equity, Diversity, and
Inclusion – Alumni and Corporate
Engagement*

INVOCATION

Cynthia Schmersal, EdD

Vice President, Mission and Ministry

SCHOLARSHIP AWARD PRESENTATION

Eldaah Asfaw

*President,
Creighton University African
American Student Association*

REMARKS

Daniel Hendrickson, SJ

President of Creighton University

Jean Stothert

Mayor of the City of Omaha

DRUM MAJOR AWARD PRESENTATION

Errik Ejike

*Chief Executive Officer,
North Omaha Area Health*

INTRODUCTION OF KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Shawntal Mallory, Esq.

*Adjunct Professor,
Creighton School of Law and
President, Creighton National Black
Alumni Advisory Board*

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

Rev. Dwayne Hawkins

Pastor of Antioch Baptist Church

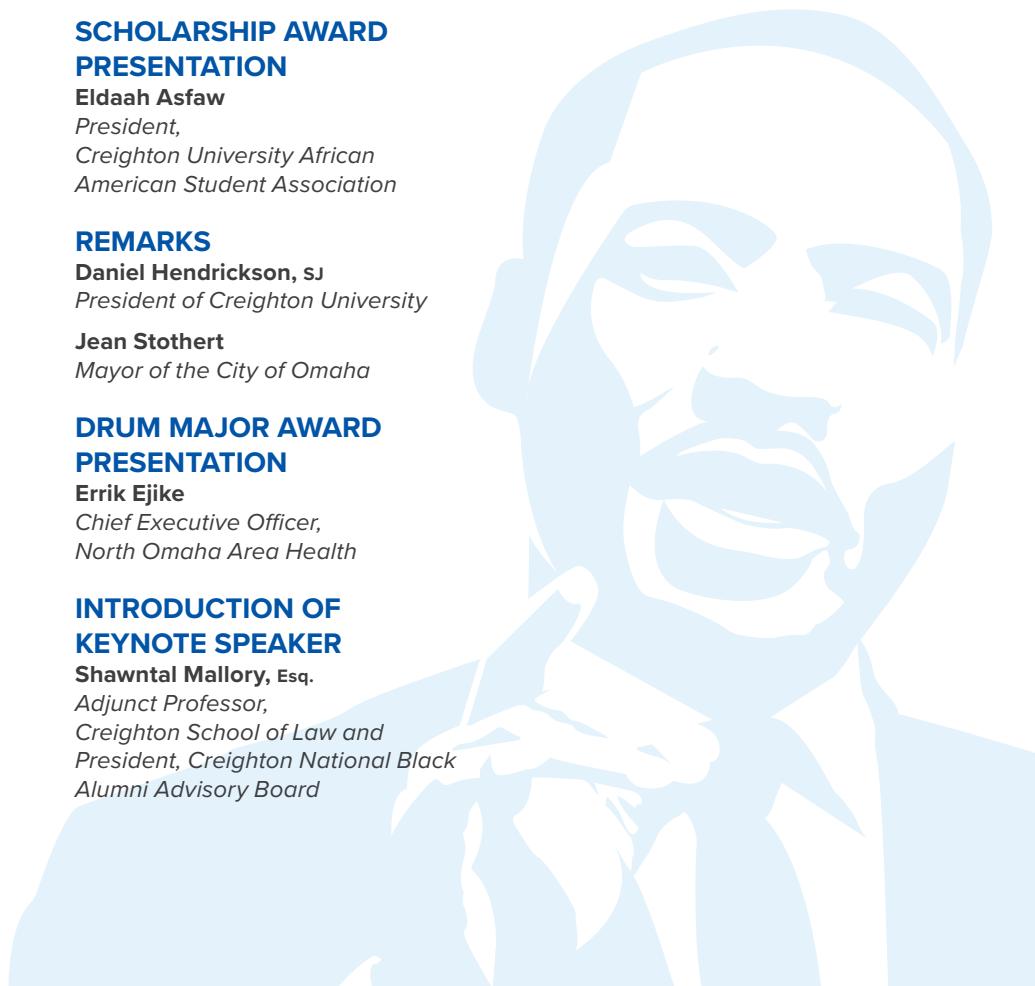
CLOSING PRAYER

Cynthia Schmersal, EdD

CLOSING SONG

Lift Every Voice and Sing

(The Black National Anthem)



DRUM MAJOR AWARD

Ira Combs, RN, MS

Founder and Retired CEO of North Omaha Area Health (NOAH)

Aiming to make North Omaha, one of Nebraska's areas most affected by poor health, the healthiest locales in the state, Ira Combs created North Omaha Area Health (NOAH), a low- or no-cost healthcare organization providing holistic care through its NOAH Clinic.

Combs is a registered nurse, working most of his long career at UNMC before establishing NOAH. He studied Christian education at Grace University in Omaha, and child development at Iowa State University. He earned his EMT degree from Creighton University, RN from Metropolitan Community College and Master of Nursing from Walden University.

Growing up in North Omaha, coupled with his experience working in healthcare, impressed upon Combs the disparities facing the African American community in northeast Omaha. He saw a need and responded with NOAH and then Youth Expressions of Health (YEOH), a youth training program in which participants explore careers in the health field. His pioneering spirit earned him the Public Health and Prevention Champion of Change recognition from President Barak Obama.

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

Rev. Dwayne Hawkins

Pastor of Antioch Baptist Church

Omaha, Nebraska, native Pastor Dwayne Hawkins accepted the call to ministry at the age of 28 and was ordained by the Baptist Pastors and Ministers Conference of Omaha in 2000. Rev. Hawkins has provided the Antioch Baptist Church community Christian service for nearly two decades.

Educational advancement has marked Pastor Hawkins' life. He graduated from Omaha's Grace University with a Bachelor of Science, double majoring in biblical studies and management and organizations leadership, and a Master of Arts in biblical studies, with a concentration in education ministry, and earned a certificate in strategic management performance systems from George Washington University's College of Professional Studies. He also holds numerous professional certifications.

In addition to being founder and president of DAH Consulting LLC, Pastor Hawkins has assumed numerous leadership roles in multiple local, regional and national faith organizations. Currently, he acts as president of New Era Baptist State Convention of Nebraska, Inc.

He has served as a Christian educator, adjunct college instructor, State Convention bible instructor and other civic and professional affiliations. He is married to Sonya Hawkins. Together they have four adult children.