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**COMMENCEMENT**

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JUNE 23, 2022

MURIEL BOWSER  
MAYOR

LEWIS D. FEREBEE  
CHANCELLOR

COLUMBIA HEIGHTS  
EDUCATIONAL CAMPUS





DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
COLUMBIA HEIGHTS EDUCATIONAL CAMPUS

Bell Multicultural High School / Lincoln Multicultural Middle School

Thirty-Third Annual Commencement Exercise



Thursday June 23, 2022 1:30 PM

3101 16th Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20020

Maria Tukeva,  
Principal

*“Excellence through Diversity”*



# DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Muriel Bowser  
Mayor

Dr. Lewis D. Ferebee  
Chancellor

Drewana Bey, Ed.D  
Chief, Office of Secondary Schools

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Dr. Jerry Jellig  
Instructional Superintendent



# ORDER OF PROGRAM

<b>Presiding</b>	Maria Tukeva, Principal
<b>**Processional</b>	"Pomp and Circumstance" Sir Edward Elgar CHEC Wind Ensemble
<b>Presentation of Colors</b>	CHEC NJROTC Cadets
<b>National Anthem</b>	CHEC Wind Ensemble
<b>Lift Every Voice and Sing</b>	CHEC Wind Ensemble
<b>Welcome Remarks and Introduction of Salutatorian</b>	Maria Tukeva, Principal
<b>Salutatorian Speech and Introduction of Valedictorian</b>	Mikias Goshime
<b>Valedictorian Address</b>	Mamadou Diabate
<b>Feature Performance</b>	"Seasons of Love" Jonathan Larson, arr. Will Rapp CHEC Wind Ensemble
<b>Introduction of the Commencement Speaker</b>	Class President Emani James
<b>Commencement Speaker Address</b>	Leon Thurston
<b>Scholarship Awards and Recognition</b>	CHEC Administrators
<b>Presentation and Acceptance of the Class of 2022</b>	Maria Tukeva, Principal
<b>Conferring of Degrees</b>	Maria Tukeva, Principal Dr. Jerry Jellig, Instructional Superintendent
<b>Principal's Final Remarks and Dismissal</b>	Maria Tukeva, Principal
<b>The Recessional</b>	Stevie Wonder Medley arr. John Wasson CHEC Wind Ensemble

**\*\*AUDIENCE PLEASE STAND**



# *Congratulations*

## *Columbia Heights Educational Campus Class of 2022*

June 23, 2022



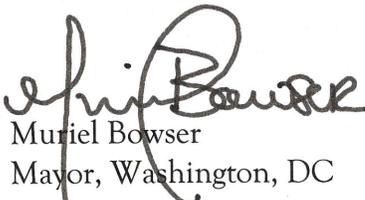
As Mayor of Washington, DC, I am pleased and honored to join your family, friends, neighbors, teachers, and school administrators, and staff in extending congratulations to the Columbia Heights Educational Campus Class of 2022!

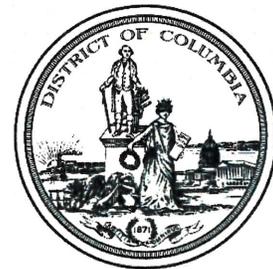
Your academic experience has been marked by innovation, perseverance, and growth. Learning in a remote environment was a major challenge, but you proved that you have the capacity to take on a difficult challenge and win. While you will encounter other challenges in life, take comfort in knowing that you have the knowledge, skills, and determination to triumph over any challenge you face.

Graduating in Washington, DC connects you to the world in a special way. The nation's capital is right outside your window. Cherish your DC experience to strengthen your resolve, collect new skills, and become your best self.

Your future is yours to define. I encourage you to continue to work hard and stay focused on the future you imagine for yourself.

On behalf of the nearly 700,000 residents of Washington, DC, I congratulate you on your accomplishment. May success follow you always.

  
Muriel Bowser  
Mayor, Washington, DC





DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Office of the Chancellor

June 2022

Dear Graduate,

On behalf of the entire DC Public Schools community, congratulations on your graduation! This diploma is the culmination of your hard work and dedication to your studies. I am proud of what you accomplished, and I hope that you and your family take the time to step back and celebrate this milestone.

Your high school experience has been shaped by the COVID-19 pandemic, but you persevered, completed your high school education, and are now a DCPS graduate! I hope you will reflect on the opportunities you had throughout your high school journey and acknowledge the challenges that you overcame with persistence and integrity.

Whether you are continuing your education through a career certificate program or a bachelor's degree, entering the military or an apprenticeship program, or moving directly into a career, always remember to take time to explore your interests and know they may take you in unexpected directions. I entered college as a biology major, and my career plans were upended when I volunteered at an elementary school and realized the joy of teaching a young person to read. After more than 20 years in my career, I still consider myself a teacher first and feel fortunate to have the opportunity to support your success every day. Whatever the future holds, you should be confident that your hard work has given you the tools you need to succeed in college, career, and life.

Take a moment to consider who stood with you when you celebrated your achievements and who lifted you up in moments of struggle, whether they be family, friends, teachers, or other members of your community. Thank them for the role that they played in your success. It is my hope that your accomplishments will set a high bar for the students who come after you to achieve their goals for college and career.

The road ahead will continue to have milestones and challenges but know that the DCPS community is here to support you and we are rooting for your success. Congratulations again, and we cannot wait to see all that you accomplish as alumni of DCPS.

Sincerely,

Lewis D. Ferebee, Ed.D.  
Chancellor, DC Public Schools



June 2022

Dear Class of 2022,

Congratulations Class of 2022! The day that we all have been waiting for is finally here. The four years that have led to this moment in time have been nothing short of phenomenal. From having the end of your sophomore year interrupted by COVID, to an entire year of virtual learning as a Junior, to now a full year of in-person learning as a Senior, you have shown a level of perseverance and fortitude that many may not have been able to endure. Not only did you meet the target, YOU raised the bar for the graduates that will come behind you for years to come. As you continue your journey, I challenge you to always **work hard, play harder, and love the hardest**. These actions will support your growth into the highest version of yourself, while profoundly impacting the lives of the individuals around you.

**“Hard work beats talent when talent doesn’t work hard.” (Tim Notke)** You have heard of the importance of hard work from the moment you started school. Guess what? It is still true. Hard work gets you further than any natural talent or attribute that you may possess. Running your own race, the hardest you can, will pay many rewards and lead to unlimited success.

**“Do what you have to do until you can do what you want to do.” (Oprah Winfrey)** Sometimes there will be smaller steps that you will take to realize and live your full passion. Those steps may not be what you want to do in the moment, but they will pave the way to get you where you want to go. Learn from every step and always celebrate your progress. You are your biggest cheerleader!

**“Love like there’s no tomorrow, and if tomorrow comes, love again.” (Max Lucado)** Love is the answer to every question you have in life. Period. Spread it as often, and as wide as you can throughout your days. It will return to you one thousand-fold. And if the last few years have taught us anything, they have taught us that our days may be short, but our love for each other is everlasting.

Graduates, you are truly the pride of the District of Columbia Public Schools and we look forward to seeing great things in your future.

Well wishes,

Dr. Drewana Bey  
Chief, Office of Secondary Schools



DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Office of Secondary Schools

June 2022

Graduates:

My deepest and most heartfelt congratulations on your graduation from DCPS. We're not in the business of comparing graduations, but I am willing to suggest that there has not been a more difficult and demanding journey than yours. You have had paused school years, remote school years, hybrid school years, masks, testing, quarantines, and more. Through it all, you stand, and have reached this special moment in your life.

While it is still just a piece of paper, there's a story in your diploma. It's a story of persevering through racism and living amidst injustice inside our communities, city, and country. On its own that could've broken you. You lived through a contentious election and the failure of a sacred American tradition- the peaceful transfer of power. Then Covid struck, and again, and again, new variants, new vaccinations, so many lives lost, and that certainly could have broken you. And you each have had your own struggles, perhaps only known to you, your family, a trusted teacher or friend. And even those could not keep you from this day.

So you've disqualified yourself from ever saying, "I can't," or "That's too difficult." Give yourself space and grace for tough times, as they will come. But also, be honest with yourself. If you were weak, you wouldn't be here. If you lacked will and belief we would know by now. And if you were meant for something less than your wildest dreams you would still be asleep. But you chose to wake, to work, to commit, and to reflect. Doubt may visit you; it just can't stay. I'm so proud to have been on this journey with you, and I remain in your service. My eternal thanks for your efforts and fellowship.

Sincerely,

*Jerry Jellig*

Dr. Jerry Jellig  
Instructional Superintendent, Cluster 10

# LETTER FROM **PRINCIPAL TUKEVA**



## DEAR GRADUATES:

Today we pay tribute to you, the Graduating Class of 2022. Staff, parents, relatives and friends have gathered to share this important moment with you. It brings great joy to have been a part of your development and to witness your achievements. At the same time, we feel nostalgia for times gone by.

You represent our hopes for the future. You must now take the knowledge and experience you have acquired over the past years, and build upon them as you enter yet another phase of your life. Whether you are going on to college, training, or employment, always strive to do the best you can.

Use your talents and achievements to create opportunities for others.

There are many young people following in your steps, and we must constantly struggle to ensure that they, too, will have the chance to receive the best possible education and preparation.

Perhaps most importantly, we hope you will keep alive the idea of multiculturalism upon which the Columbia Heights Educational Campus was founded. In spite of the constant strife and confrontations between nations and peoples, you as students of the CHEC have demonstrated that unity can be achieved even while diversity is respected and encouraged. If you maintain this ideal as you take your roles as future leaders, we can hope for a more peaceful and just existence on this earth.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Maria Tukeva'.

Maria Tukeva  
Principal

# COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER: LEON THURSTON, JR.



• LEE JUNIOR

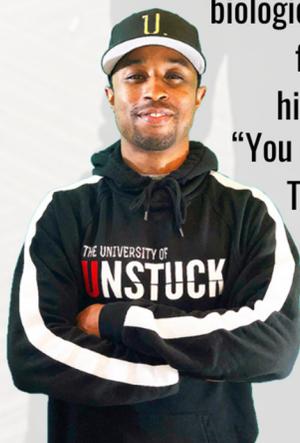
& AFFILIATES •

## Meet "Lee Junior" Leon Thurston Jr.

Leon Thurston is a World-renowned retention trainer, educator, author & ordained minister. Lee Junior, as he is better known, radiates dynamic & inspiring messages with his power of reasoning approach to achieving personal and professional success. Through a significant educational institution presence and state-to-state personal development conferences, "Lee Junior" has become a worldwide crowd-puller!

With the support of his mentor Eric Thomas, Ph.D., also known as "ET, The Hip-Hop Preacher" every year Lee empowers 10s of thousands of people to get out of their own way & live a successful, satisfying life. As CEO of his Personal Development School, University of Unstuck LLC., Lee has led his team through the doors of hugely successful organizations such as the D.C. Supreme Court system, to the Washington Valor Football team just to name a few. Thousands of followers including celebrity musician Ciara, and NFL Hall of Famer Deion Sanders, have been able to apply the principles revealed in his best selling book, "The University of Unstuck - The Guide to Becoming Your Own Greatest Solution" which has scaled the social media charts with over 50k hits.

Drawing from his own personal experiences as they relate to scholastic struggles, the absence of his biological mother, & various obstacles, Lee allows his life to be an "open book" in order for audiences to receive a breakthrough message. Lee's spiritual walk along with his passion & perseverance are the perfect examples of one of his favorite quotes, "You don't get to the next level in life until you get tired of the level that you are on." There is no other trainer in the industry with more energy, passion, and the heart to see others succeed.



"I am a firm believer that there is greatness on the inside of everyone. While many people are unaware of their greatness, it is my job to help each individual bring it out." — *Lee Junior*

## **SCHOOL PRINCIPAL**

Maria Tukeva

## **SENIOR CLASS OFFICERS**

Emani James, President      Jessica Smith, Treasurer  
Tybias Barton, Vice President      Kayla Jones, Secretary

## **SENIOR CLASS ADMINISTRATOR**

Adrian Thweatt

## **SENIOR CLASS COUNSELORS**

Marianella Castro      Hurley Odom  
Luis Diaz      Corinne Partelow  
Dr. Evelyn Iraheta      Kwame Yeboah-Kankam

## **SENIOR CLASS SUPPORT TEAM**

Desmond Alexander      Wendy Pugh  
Keyona Nwaolu Bryant      Pankaj Raymajhi  
Dewayne Boone      Alex Rosenburg  
Ryan Duvall      Ashlie Savage  
Sarah Ermis      Courtney Spinks  
Michael Hunter      Robert Stearman  
Dr. Patrick Jackson      Lance Swinton  
Oliver Jones      Joshep Talarico  
Victor Molina      Hamdel Tobias  
Billy Oliva      Adrian Thweatt  
Krishunda Penn-Pearson      Taylor West

## **ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM**

Maria Tukeva, Principal  
Adrian Thweatt, 12th Grade Assistant Principal  
Oliver Jones, 11th Grade Assistant Principal  
Taylor West, 10th Grade Assistant Principal  
Ediberto Galvan, 9th Grade Assistant Principal  
Kathrine Avila, 7th and 8th Grade Assistant Principal  
Roman Smith, 6th and 7th Grade Assistant Principal  
Grace Ameyaw, Special Education Director

Desmond Alexander, Athletics Director  
Daniel Bellido, Dean of Students  
Dewayne Boone, Dean of Students  
Mya Ferguson, Ed Tech Leap Lead  
Wendy Pugh, Pathways Coordinator  
Pankaj Rayamajhi, Director of Operations  
Christian Reyes, Dean of Students  
Ashlie Savage, College and Career Coordinator  
Jacklyn V. Strickland, Instructional Coach  
Kaneil Williams, Dean of Students

# THE CLASS - OF 2022 -

Bleriot R. Abanda  
Armando Abarca  
Daniel Adetunji  
Andrea Alvarado-  
Kricia Alvarez  
Soudalat Anlavan  
Tsaga Asmerom  
Tiffany Baldizon  
Jayden Mehki Barnes  
Deovion N. Barrett  
Tybias Jerome  
Cindy Batres  
Jocelyn Tatiana  
Keyvon Bigelow  
Anthony Bingham  
Dontaivion Blount  
Victoria Faith  
Zaire Brinkley  
Taleah L. Brown  
Zarihya K. Brown  
Donte` J. H. Burnette  
Diana Burruca  
Gabriel Calderon  
Christopher Clark  
Jeremy Campos  
Dallis Carr  
Amber Chenel  
Daniel Castillo  
Alison Castillo  
Jennifer Castillo  
Zion Caudle  
Tayvani Chambliss  
Bennett Chinn, IV  
Bitaneya Chirotaw  
Angela Cojulun  
Moises Colato-  
Yasmeen Collins  
Alexandra Cruz  
Ashley Cruz  
Muttaqi Daniels  
Daniel De La Cruz  
Eddy De Leon  
Rory Defreitas-Aka  
Roshawn Defreitas-  
Hector Delgado  
Mamadou Diabate

Alicia Diaz Aleman  
Aaron Diaz Moreno  
Jose Diaz  
Emmanuel Dodson  
Sindy Escobar  
Jiyah Fennell  
Alexis Flores Lopez  
Angela Flores  
Jessica Flores  
Yamary Flores  
Ashley Flores-Ponce  
Jala Fogle  
Allahya Fonville  
Brittney Ford  
James Ford  
Cesar Fuentes  
Aura Garcia-Lobo  
Juan Carlos Garcia-  
Amat Gaye  
Cindy Giron  
Dyanara Giron  
Kevin Giron Escobar  
Joshua Glover  
Cindy Gomez  
Carlos Gonzalez  
Paula Gonzalez  
Mikias Getachew  
Elvin Grande Mendez  
Joseph Green  
David Guerra Elvir  
Amaya Hall  
Lavender Hawkins  
Tiffany Darice  
Alessandra Hernandez  
Bill Sinaid Hernandez-Fun  
Jeimi Liset  
Jessica Hernandez  
Ninette Hernandez  
Yenifer Hernandez  
Damaris Herrera  
Lennea Howard  
Gavon Hudgens  
Maricela Jacinto-  
Emani James  
Kayla Jones  
Taijah Jones

Kiamarey Jordan  
Aaliyah Joyner  
Mohamed Kamara  
Meron Kebede  
Warren King  
Gladys Lagos Rivas  
Miguel Lainez Arias  
Gilmar Lamas  
Yanel Lazaro  
Clariza Lazo  
Iyanna Lee  
Bessy Leonzo  
Zhicheng Liu  
Jessica Lopez  
Sheyla Lopez-  
Sintia Madrid  
Steven Josh  
Wendy Martinez-  
Caroline McWhorter  
Candida Medrano  
Jefferey E Mendez-  
Jose Mendoza  
Noel Mendoza-  
Tafia Metcalf  
Christell Miranda-  
Effrain Molina-Yanes  
Justice Montgomery  
Jalen Moorer  
Suzette Nava-Ramos  
Cora Norris  
Olivia Opoku  
Keiry Orellana-Reyes  
Walter Palacios  
Enoc Paniagua-  
Daeyanne Pannell  
MaquÃ©la Penn  
Carlos Perez Gomez  
Carlos Peterson  
Coelathia Pollard  
Maria Primitivo  
David Quinteros-  
Anahy Ramirez  
Cristofer Ramirez-  
Michelle Ramos-  
Lee Rasmussen  
David Reyes

Rios Yair  
Asli Rivera-Aguilar  
Zayra Rivera-  
Katherine Rivera-  
Weston Robert  
Franklin Romero  
Cristel Roque Pineda  
Dajuan Samuel  
Jade Santos-  
Micah Saunders  
Kenneth Scott Jr  
Iman Shakur  
Anura Sharma  
Jasmine Shorter  
Jessica Smith  
Oscar Smith  
Meliza Sorto Mendez  
John Sorto  
Maria Tapia-  
Pashance Taylor  
Tanajuh Thomas  
Joshua Tindugan  
Sulmy Turcios  
Ladasia Tyndle  
Cornelio Vanegas-  
Jerson Vasquez  
Kevin Velasquez  
Jefferson Ventura  
Enrique Ventura  
Imanol Viera  
Guillermo Villalta  
David Villatoro  
Jordyn Vincent  
Edward Walker  
Kayla Walker  
Danae Ward  
Yamani Ward  
Avanti Watson  
Anthonia Whitten  
Jayden Williams  
Kamia Williams  
Xiao Tong Wu  
Salah Wynn  
Latrice Yates  
Leandro Zavala  
Jaci Zelaya

# FACULTY & STAFF

Feinstein Aaron  
Omar AbuSabha  
Jorge Aguilar  
Mafope Alao  
Desmond Alexander  
Reiss Allen  
Jessica Alvarado  
Kenrry Alvarado  
Grace Ameyaw  
David Arabian  
Kaitlin Athmer  
Robert Athmer  
Kathrine Avila  
Ana Ayala  
Sandra Baker  
Amylia Barnett  
Daniel Bellido  
Sharae Belton  
Christopher Best  
Henrietta Blankson  
Dewayne Boone  
Maria Borrego  
Devonne Brown  
R Sabastian Brown  
Allison Bruemmer  
Bridgit Bruggeman  
Keegan Brush  
Keyona Bryant  
Deborah Buckmon  
Elmy Bueno  
Andoni Bujan  
Miguel Cabra Barrera  
Ruben Caceres  
Karen Carino  
Marianella Castro  
Jessica Cates-Bristol  
Megan Chatalian  
Jhor Chavez  
Shuk-Kuen Chiu  
Ross Cohen  
George Connor  
Rodney Cook  
Rosa Cruz  
Ann Cummings  
Tel Aviv Degolacion  
Luz Delcid  
Alfredo Deschamps  
Desepe Devargas  
Heber Diaz  
Luis Diaz-Luna  
Alessandra Divetta  
Angela Doctor

Ryan Duvall  
Lionel Edmonds  
Kristian Ellingsen  
Noel Emilius  
Sarah Ermis  
Carolyn Fado  
Angela Falkenberg  
Mya Ferguson  
Rodricus Ficklin  
Rafael Figueroa  
Laura Freshley  
Erick Oscar Fuentes  
Jonathan Gallo  
Edilberto Galvan  
Sandra Garcia  
Ismenia Garcia-Carmona  
Kenneth Giron  
Gabriel Gonzalez  
Jesus Green  
Elizabeth Guillen  
Luiz Gutierrez  
Ghassan Haddad  
Nicole Hallerman  
Deirdre Hand  
Constance Hanlon  
Erika Harris  
Danielle Helme  
Christopher Henggeler  
Martine Henriquez  
Catherine Hogan  
Michael Hunter  
Brendan Icsó  
Evelyn Iraheta  
Patrick Jackson  
Justin Jacobs  
Elaine Jaffe  
Joyner Jason  
Maji Jones  
Oliver Jones  
Sheri Jones  
Bree-Anna Joseph  
Pheven Kahasay  
Dunia Kamal  
Madelyn Keefe  
Kapindi Kroma  
Isabel Lainez  
Brittany Lee  
Dora Lemus  
Luz Lemus  
Amber Lesniewicz  
Andrea Lewis  
Gregory Lindsey

Angela Ling  
Antonia Lora  
Dilenny Lora Durán  
Shaun Loria  
Ready Lystra  
Peter Magee  
Elizabeth Malcolm  
Emily Marlatt  
Che'vaniece Marshall  
Mandy McCulloch  
Oliany Mendez  
Anna Menendez  
Carlos Mesa  
Anna Michaels  
Sarah Mintz  
Victor Molina  
Farhana Momtaz  
Shanelle Moore  
Silvia Morales  
Angela Najam  
Ellen Nakpil  
Ivan Navas  
Kawther Nimer  
Nafeesah Nimer  
Dulce Nunez  
Hurley Odom  
billy Oliva  
David Onley  
Patricia Ortez  
Edgar Otero  
Rayamajhi Pankaj  
Corinne Partelow  
Mien Patterson  
Lakshmi Peddyreddy  
Krishunda Penn  
Diana Perez  
Adam Perry  
Miguel Pinto  
Angenette Planter  
Eligio Pool  
Wendy Pugh  
Erve Pyram  
Mohammad Rahman  
Gabriela Ramirez  
Pankaj Rayamajhi  
Christian Reyes  
Eduardo Reyes  
Akash Reza  
Clara Riesenber  
Jane Roman  
Alex Rosenberg  
Christopher Rowe

Kathleen Ryan  
Braulio Salas  
Maximino Salazar  
Anna Marie Samarita  
Jorge Sanchez  
Marian Sanchez  
Ashlie Savage  
Michael Schroeder  
Thomas Schutt  
Rashaad Sewell  
Janethel Shaw  
Michael Shoenthal  
Luz Silva  
Dwight Simon  
Kervin Smith  
Roman Smith  
Courtney Spinks  
Robert Stearman  
Christopher Stewart  
Jordan Stouch  
Jacqueline Strickland  
Lance Swinton  
Joseph Talarico  
Erwana Tamdem  
Adair Thomas  
Adrian Thweatt  
Hamdel Tobias  
Lucila Trejo  
Juan Urbina  
Ja'lishe Urquhart  
Catalina Vasquez  
Maria Vazquez  
Cristina Velasquez  
Katie Ward  
Jovanda Warren  
Ebony Washington  
Eric Washington  
Suzannah Weiss  
Taylor West  
James Westray  
Kaneil Williams  
Kenneth Williams  
Luke Wright  
Hayat Yaghi  
Eriko Yamashita  
Kwame Yeboah  
Christopher Zinzarella  
Veronica Zuccarello

