

Los Medanos College Division of Choral/Vocal Music Presents:

*25th “Silver Anniversary” Gospel
Celebration Reunion Concert*

Hosted By

Los Medanos College Reunion Gospel Choir

Professor Silvester Henderson, Director

“Faith, Inspiration, & Resilience: A Pathway to Higher Education”

Special Guest

Kyla Jade

Motivational Guest Speaker

Dr. Kirk Anthony James

“Celebration of Women’s Diversity” Award Recipients

Ms. Chelsea Esquibias

Ms. Pamela Haynes

Dr. Yvette Gullatt

Local Guests

Los Medanos College Reunion Chamber Chorale

Casey & Erica Pringle

Palma Ceia Baptist Church Reunion Mass Choir

Faith Chorale

Angelo Luster

Ric Alexander

**Saturday
May 4th, 2019**

**LOS MEDANOS
COLLEGE**

**LMC Recital Hall
7:00 PM**

From the Office of Professor Silvester Carl Henderson, CEO

Gospel Celebration Community Concert – Festival

Los Medanos College Department of Music - Division of Choral/Vocal Music
2700 East Leland Road, Pittsburg, Ca 94565 (925) 473-7806/(925) 565-6107

Hello! As the Chief Executive Artistic Organizer/Officer for the Los Medanos College Gospel Celebration Community Concert/Festival, it is with great pleasure that I write this *Opening Letter of Gratitude*, regarding the **25th “Silver Anniversary” Gospel Celebration Reunion Concert**. For a quarter of a century, the goal and mission of this Concert/Festival has always been to create academic and music unifiers that link the artistic, faith based, educational, and political communities into an inclusive and global structure that supports instructional innovation and musical inclusion. These combined academic and learning necessities are found within the structural context of the African American Gospel Song. The Gospel Song supports a **“Culture of Human Discovery and Inclusive Diversity”**.

As an internationally noted Choral Conductor, Performer, College Professor and Academic, I applaud the Gospel Celebration Advisory Council and the Los Medanos College Gospel Choir for their boundless energy and noteworthy creativity. The LMC Gospel Choir has created a national reputation of musical excellence, artistic inclusion, and support for the “Advanced Liberal Arts”- the quadrivium, which includes arithmetic, geometry, music, and astronomy. Since the creation of the world’s oldest university, **“The University of Takshishila”** (aka: Taxila), medieval scholars exalted music as a *“vital component”* of a proper education and civilized world. Music was viewed as a mathematical and philosophical discipline. In Europe up to the eighteenth century, practical music was studied in the church and in an apprenticeship system.

One of the fundamental goals of all Higher Educational Institutions are to serve as agents of *“Social Diversity”*. This exhibits the foundational framework that describes the African American Gospel Song. The unabashed delivery and style of the African American Gospel Music Performers describes an aggregation of music performing scientist who integrate and combined their talents into a marriage of artistic commitment that labels these performers as *“Social Justice Advocates”*. This advocacy describes the core and primary mission of the Los Medanos College Gospel Choir. The Los Medanos Gospel Choir has performed in support of political, academic and social causes such as the following: Faculty Diversity, Rights of Women, African American Males, Asian & Pacific Islanders, Latinx, Foster Youth, Inmate Education/Prison to College Pipelines, and the Human Right Campaign. Recently, I was invited to participate and present on behalf of the Los Medanos College Gospel Choir at **two of Great Britain’s most prestigious universities - the Greenwich University and the Birmingham City University**. This serves as a great testament to how *“Gospel Music can improve communities through Higher Education”*. The Los Medanos College Gospel Choir’s commitment to teaching and learning is vast, embracing everything from early-childhood to post-doctorate study. The LMC Division of Choral/Vocal Music remains excited to create culturally relevant pedagogy, traditional courses, music ensembles and educational programs, where the goal is to educate/teach our local, national, and international student populations.

On behalf of the Celebration Advisory Council, the Los Medanos College Gospel Choir, and the Department of Music, I wish to **“Thank”** the current President of Los Medanos College - Dr. Bob Kratochvil, Chancellor Fred E. Wood, Dean Nancy Ybarra, and Supervisor Federal Glover. Additionally, I would like to place *“Special”* gratefulness to past LMC Presidents: Dr. Raul Rodriguez and President Peter Garcia. Both of these administrators offered vital wisdom during the early development of this festival. Moreover, I remain grateful to our marketing agents such as the East Bay Times and the Huffington Post. Congratulations is sent to our prestigious award recipients: Ms. Chelsea Esquibias, Dr. Yvette Gullatt, and Ms. Pamela Haynes. Thank you is also sent to Ms. Kyla Jade (Special Guest), Dr. Kirk Anthony James (Motivational Speaker), our local performing guests, Mr. Aaron Nakaji, and the entire Los Medanos College Community for their continual kind and historic support of this internationally acclaimed music celebration. Once again, Welcome to the Los Medanos College **“Silver Anniversary Gospel Celebration Reunion Concert”**!

Cordially,



Professor Silvester Carl Henderson, Festival CEO – Artistic Organizer
Director of Choral-Vocal Activities & Keyboard Studies
Academic Senate for California Community Colleges (ASCCC) – At Large Senate Representative
Equity Diversity & Action Committee – Chair (ASCCC Statewide Committee)

March 1, 2019

Congratulations to Professor Silvester Henderson and the Los Medanos College (LMC) Gospel Choir on the 25th Annual Gospel Celebration! This incredible event is more than a concert – it uplifts our spirits, connects us through song, and showcases our talented students.

The arts have the power to inspire an individual, open hearts and minds, and unite a community – and the dynamic musical experience you provide the audience is no exception. From the first Gospel Celebration to this “Silver Anniversary,” you have touched and transformed thousands of lives at LMC, in East Contra Costa County, and beyond.

On behalf of the students, faculty, classified professionals, and managers of Los Medanos College, I thank you for 25 years of truly enriching performances and applaud you for engaging our entire community.

Best wishes,

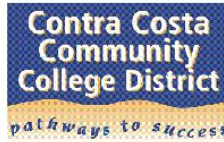


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Robert Kratochvil, Ed.D. Los Medanos College

March 4, 2019

Professor Silvester Henderson
Los Medanos College
2700 East Leland Avenue
Pittsburg, California 94565

Dear Professor Henderson:

On behalf of the Contra Costa Community College District, congratulations on the 25th Annual Gospel Celebration Reunion Concert, scheduled for Saturday, May 4, 2019.

This annual signature event showcases the highest caliber of gospel music in the nation for both Los Medanos College and our community. I am certain the evening will be exceptional with the performance of Kayla Jade and the presentation by Dr. Kirk Anthony James. Additionally, the local talent outlined in this year's program continues the program's tradition of excellence.

A 25th Anniversary is a remarkable achievement. To reach this milestone requires both a great beginning idea at inception as well as an enormous ongoing commitment. I want to especially commend and congratulate you, Professor Silvester Henderson, on this great achievement.

Thank you for your continued dedication to such a wonderful tradition in our District. Gospel music continues to provide an essential element in our society. I wish you the very best with this inspiring celebration of music!

Sincerely yours,

Fred E. Wood, Ph.D.
Chancellor

FEW:mp



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Building the future through quality education

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Santa Ana College • Santiago Canyon College

March 18, 2019

Professor Silvester Carl Henderson
Director of Choral/Vocal Activities
Music Department
Los Medanos College
2700 E. Leland Rd.
Pittsburg, CA 94565-5107

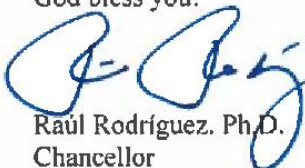
Dear Professor Henderson,

Please accept this letter of support and congratulations on the occasion of the Silver Anniversary of Gospel Celebrations that you have organized and delivered to the Los Medanos College community. Doing just about anything for 25 years is a major accomplishment, but to annually undertake and administer an event of this magnitude and quality is truly an achievement for which you should be justifiably proud.

Gospel music is inspirational from both a spiritual and a musical perspective. The excitement, energy, and talent that is on display in one of your Gospel Celebrations is a spectacle to behold. However, the value of these events does not stop there. A Gospel Concert put together by you consists of much more than the music. There is always a higher educational purpose and message behind these concerts. There are words of encouragement and aspiration delivered by a motivational speaker to the many youth who attend these concerts. There is a recognition and celebration of individuals who are role models in the community and who are worthy of emulation. Similarly, these musical and spiritual events are also grounded in the concepts of equity, diversity, and inclusiveness. They make a profound statement about the power of faith as well as the determination and effort that are needed to improve our local community, our society, and our nation.

As a former president of Los Medanos College, I appreciate the many years of dedication and hard work that you, Professor Silvester Henderson, have tirelessly given back to the college and the community through your annual Gospel Celebration events. You have made and you continue to make a significant difference in the lives of the many people touched by your generous spirit and through the medium of gospel music. May you have many more years of success.

God bless you!



Raúl Rodríguez, Ph.D.
Chancellor

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CHANCELLOR

Raúl Rodríguez, Ph.D.

April 2, 2019

Professor Silvester Henderson
Director of Choral/Vocal Activities
Music Department
Los Medanos College
2700 E. Leland Road
Pittsburg, CA 94565

Dear Professor Henderson (Silvester),

No one should be surprised that the power of Gospel music, an art form that you so deeply honor, partnered with your unlimited energies have resulted in 25 years of education, inspiration, and joy for our community, the Los Medanos College Silver Anniversary Gospel Celebration Reunion Concert. The title is a mouthful, but 25 years of lifting hearts and transforming minds must carry a worthy name! Thank you for the privilege and blessing of being a witness to your efforts and the event's success from the beginning as a former president of Los Medanos College and a lifelong resident of East Contra Costa County.

You offered a lifetime of relationships, commitment, and talent honed in Oakland and East Bay churches, the stellar University of California, Berkeley, Gospel Choir and the Los Medanos College Music Department to this incredible annual celebration. You steadily grew the mix of local and regional performing choirs, allowing for a greater breadth and depth of diversity, helping all of us experience what good news great music brings to the world. You introduced us to rising and eminent Gospel artists while navigating venue problems, budget crises, and myriad personal and institutional challenges. And you made all of this look like a mere human could pull it off effortlessly!

Revel in the success that few achieve, 25 years of giving music and art to our community, lifting souls, informing minds, and refreshing hearts. I have been humbled by your work; and I rejoice in your milestone, but I am not surprised. I know that the 25th version will not disappoint.

Best Wishes,

Peter Garcia
Retired



**SAN FRANCISCO
STATE UNIVERSITY**

COLLEGE OF LIBERAL AND CREATIVE ARTS
1600 Holloway Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94132

Tel: 415/405-4109

April 5, 2019

Dear Professor Henderson:

Greetings from your alma mater!

The School of Music offers you its hearty congratulations on the occasion of the Gospel Celebration Reunion Concert, celebrating 25 years of service to bay area music students. We are proud to claim alumnus Silvester Henderson as a shining and long-standing a champion of diversity, equity and inclusion among our many graduates.

Professor Henderson earned his Bachelor of Music and his Master of Arts Degrees from San Francisco State University. After graduation, he was a member of the teaching faculty from 1984 to 1994 as a Professor/Lecturer of Piano and Music Theory.

Wishing Professor Henderson, the Los Medanos Music Department and the LMC Gospel Choir many years of continued success and service to music and musicians in the bay area.

On behalf of the entire San Francisco State Community,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Cyrus Ginwala".

Cyrus Ginwala
Director



DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE
TEL: (510) 642-6323
FAX: (510) 642-9515

BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA 94720-1950

March 25, 2019

Professor Silvester Henderson, Conductor/Organizer
Los Medanos College Gospel Choir
c/o Los Medanos College Department of Music
Division of Choral/Vocal Music
2700 East Leland Road
Pittsburg, CA 94565

To Whom it May Concern:

It is my distinct pleasure to provide a letter of endorsement for the Los Medanos College 25th Silver Anniversary Gospel Celebration Concert. My endorsement is based on both the intrinsic importance of the subject-matter and the celebrated leadership of CEO Professor Silvester Carl Henderson. I came to know Professor Henderson in the early 2000s, when I served as Dean of the Division of Social Sciences of the College of Letters and Science at UC Berkeley. At that time, Professor Henderson served as Conductor of UC Berkeley's Young Inspiration Gospel Choir, which we transferred from a nonacademic, student-activities unit to an academic unit, the Department of Music. This provided Professor Henderson the opportunity to expand, innovate and design an effective academic approach for teaching urban choral music.

Professor Henderson displayed consummate expertise, leadership, and passionate commitment. The students who joined the choir were moved by his leadership to give their all on behalf of the Gospel concerts in which they participated. The choir was ethnically and racially highly diverse, advancing goals of student equity and social equality. During Professor Henderson's tenure, the program at UC Berkeley was noted as one of the most prominent urban choral music programs in the country.

It is my understanding that "The Los Medanos College Gospel Celebration Programs" is something of an offspring of the twenty-year "Gospel Experience Concert Series" that Professor Henderson organized and led at UC Berkeley during 1985-2005.

Let me also convey my warm congratulations to Dr. Yvette Gullat, who is being honored at this year's Silver Anniversary Celebration for her promotion of social justice and equity.

I send my best wishes to all those attending this year's Silver Anniversary Concert.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'George W. Breslauer'.

George W. Breslauer
Professor of the Graduate School
Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost *Emeritus*



Ameer Thompson Ph.D.
Director, CALC Program
Saint Mary's College of California
School of Science
1928 Saint Mary's Road
Moraga, CA 94575

Professor Silvester Henderson
Director of Choral/Vocal Activities
Los Medanos College
2700 Leland Rd.,
Pittsburg, CA 94565

Dear Professor Henderson,

I wanted to extend my sincere congratulations to you and the Los Medanos College Gospel Reunion Choir on the Silver Anniversary Gospel Celebration Reunion Concert. This is truly a momentous milestone. I have no doubt the evening will be full of music, praise, and inspiration. I am consistently impressed with your emphasis on the importance of providing young aspiring scholars with "A Pathway to Higher Education". Thank you for providing the community with clear examples of "Faith, Inspiration, and Resilience".

It cannot be overstated: education has the power to galvanize and transform a community. Los Medanos College serves as a critical community touchpoint; the impact of having education at the heart of your outreach activities is inestimable. Thank you for all of the amazing work that you do using Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Mathematics (STEAM) to foster community development. Please let me know if there is anything I can do to support your efforts.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ameer Thompson", written in a cursive style.

Dr. Ameer Thompson



Mark DeSaulnier

Eleventh District
California

U. S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

May 4, 2019

Dear Friends:

While I am unable to be here today, I wish to join you in commemorating the Los Medanos College Gospel Choir's 25th Annual Gospel Celebration Concert.

Over the past 25 years, the LMC Gospel Choir has served as a beacon of diversity and inclusivity on the Los Medanos campus and in the East Bay community at large, providing the wonderful opportunity of music to students of all backgrounds. I applaud your unwavering commitment to providing this opportunity.

Year after year, the Gospel Celebration Concert has been a showcase of our local students' incredible talent and dedication, and has allowed these students to share the stage with world-renowned musicians.

For 25 years, the LMC Gospel Choir and the annual Gospel Celebration Concert have been valuable assets to the East Bay community. I encourage all current and future performers to carry forth this tradition. Your music is a gift, and I sincerely hope that you continue to share it and strive for excellence in the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark DeSaulnier".

Mark DeSaulnier
Member of Congress
11th District, California



City of Pittsburg

65 Civic Avenue • Pittsburg, California 94565

PROCLAMATION

**LOS MEDANOS COLLEGE GOSPEL CHOIR
TWENTY-FIFTH ANNUAL GOSPEL CELEBRATION CONCERT DAY
MAY 4, 2019**

WHEREAS, the Los Medanos College Gospel Choir was formed in 1994 under the direction of Professor Silvester Carl Henderson as a class that recognizes and fosters appreciation of African-American gospel music from an academic perspective; and

WHEREAS, the Los Medanos College Gospel Choir is comprised of students of all ages, races and religious backgrounds; and

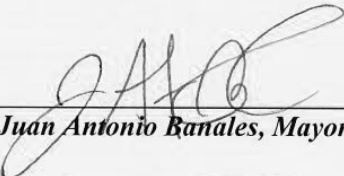
WHEREAS, the Los Medanos College Gospel Choir has presented an Annual Gospel Celebration Concert in May since its inception; and

WHEREAS, over the past twenty-five years, the Choir's Annual Gospel Celebration Concert has attracted large and diverse crowds and become one of the largest multicultural events held in Contra Costa County; and

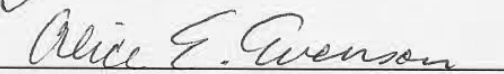
WHEREAS, the Los Medanos Gospel Choir will present its Twenty-Fifth Annual Gospel Celebration Concert on Saturday, May 4, 2019 at Los Medanos College.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Juan Antonio Banales, Mayor of the City of Pittsburg, California, on behalf of the entire City Council hereby proclaim May 4, 2019 as Los Medanos College Gospel Choir Gospel Celebration Concert Day in the City of Pittsburg and urge all citizens to attend this worthwhile event.





Juan Antonio Banales, Mayor



Alice E. Evenson, City Clerk

May 4, 2019



*Certificate of Special
Congressional Recognition*

Presented to

Los Medanos College Gospel Choir

In recognition of your 24th Annual Gospel Celebration.

I applaud your commitment and dedication to inspire through the musical arts.

May 5, 2018

Date

Eric Swalley
U.S. Congressman Eric Swalley



*Certificate of Special
Congressional Recognition*

Professor Silvester C. Henderson

Los Medanos College Gospel Choir

*In recognition of your participation in the 24th Annual Gospel Celebration.
I applaud your commitment and dedication to inspire through music.*

May 5, 2018

Date

Eric Swalwell
U.S. Congressman Eric Swalwell

Past Recognition From Contra Costa County Politicians

The Board of Supervisors of Contra Costa County

RECOGNIZING THE 22nd ANNUAL GOSPEL CELEBRATION CONCERT MAY 7, 2016

***WHEREAS,** the Los Medanos College Gospel Choir was formed in 1994 under the direction of Professor Silvester Carl Henderson as a class that recognizes and fosters appreciation of African-American gospel music from an academic perspective; and*

***WHEREAS,** the Los Medanos College Gospel Choir is comprised of students of all ages, races and religious backgrounds from all over East Contra Costa County and beyond and has earned a reputation as the finest community college gospel choir in the State of California; and*

***WHEREAS,** the Los Medanos College Gospel Choir and Professor Henderson were honored with the 2014 Community Service Award from the East Contra Costa County Branch of the NAACP; and*

***WHEREAS,** over the past twenty years, the Choir's Annual Gospel Celebration Concert has attracted large and diverse crowds and become one of the most popular community college events as well as one of the larger multi-cultural events held in Contra Costa County; and*

***WHEREAS,** in addition, these concerts have featured many nationally-known gospel, jazz and pop recording artists as well as provided a showcase for numerous local groups and artists even during a time when California community colleges in general and community college music programs in particular are experiencing severe budgetary cutbacks; and*

***WHEREAS,** the Los Medanos Gospel Choir will present its 22nd Annual Gospel Celebration concert on Saturday, May 7, 2016 at the Los Medanos College Recital Hall with motivational speaker, Professor Evan Wade and musical performers Kevin LeVar and Michael Blankenship.*

***NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by virtue of the authority vested in me as a member of the Board of Supervisors of Contra Costa County, I hereby express deep appreciation to the Los Medanos College Gospel Choir and their strong commitment to the 22nd Annual Gospel Celebration Concert in Contra Costa County.*



Federal D. Glover, Supervisor District V

Past Recognition From Contra Costa County Politicians

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE



CERTIFICATE OF RECOGNITION

*LOS MEDANOS COLLEGE
GOSPEL CHOIR*

2014 COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD
EAST COUNTY NAACP

*For your outstanding service to the people of
the 11th Assembly District and Contra Costa County
I commend your significant contributions to our community
and notable efforts on behalf of the East County NAACP*

April 26, 2014



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jim Frazier". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

MEMBER OF THE ASSEMBLY, 11TH DISTRICT
CALIFORNIA STATE LEGISLATURE
JIM FRAZIER

LOS MEDANOS COLLEGE

DIVISION OF CHORAL/VOCAL MUSIC & KEYBOARD STUDIES

The Los Medanos College's Vocal & Choral Division is administered by the Grammy Quarterfinalist, Professor Silvester Carl Henderson. The vocal/choral program is designed to allow for maximum development of specialized skills in particular musical areas of interest. Vocal students perform a wide variety of repertoire which includes classical, jazz, musical theatre, gospel, country, rhythm & blues, and current popular music. **The LMC Chamber Chorale tours each year performing intense classical choral repertoire at some of the most reputable universities and concerts halls throughout California.** The Chamber Chorale has hosted local and noted classical artists and conductors such as Karen Anderson, Gregory Marks, Antonio Nagore, Ivanna Taratula, Dr. Chad Somers, Dr. Rebecca Lord, Professor Burt Cochran Phillips, Dr. Yejee Choi, Dr. Anna Hamre, and Dr. Buddy James... and many more. The Gospel Choir sponsors the largest educationally sponsored multicultural community festivals in Contra Costa County. The Celebration Concerts have brought many gospel, jazz, Broadway stars, and rhythm and blues greats to the campus and community such as Gerald Albright, Kirk Carr, Lawrence Matthews and Friends, the Young Inspiration Gospel Choir, the late Helen Stephens and the Lighthouse Singers, Eddie Baltrip and the Voices of Fulfillment, Melanie Daniel (vocal coach for Mariah Carey), Kirk Whalum "Mr. Gospel According to Jazz", Billy Porter (New York Broadway Star and Soundtrack Artist for Bette Midler's "First Wives Club"), James Iglehart (New York Broadway Star from Aladdin), Reverend Daryl Coley, Norman Hutchins, Howard Hewett, Paul Jackson Jr., Micah Stampley, Kenny Lattimore, LaToya London, Chris Walker, Lawrence Beamen, Kathy Taylor Brown, Kevin LeVar, Anita Wilson, and most recently Keisha Renee. The Choral Division established an Academic Lecture Scholarship Series that featured noted academic scholars. The LMC Academic Lecture Series has included academic research scholars such as the following: Dr. James Lance Taylor (USF), Dr. Tyrone Howard (UCLA), Dr. Nicholas Baham (CSU East Bay), Dr. Ameer Thompson (Saint Mary's College), Dr. Dean Suzuki (SFSU), Dr. Sanjay Marway (CSU East Bay), Dr. Charles Kronegold (Stanford), Professor Andrew Wesley (Ohio State University), Dr. Amanda Morrison (Sonoma State University), and Professor Glen Pearson (College of Alameda). The department of Music offers an Associates of Arts Degree (AA), Associate of Arts Transfer - Music (AAT) as well as a "Certificate in Performance". The department transfers a large majority of our vocal & keyboard students to Music Conservatories and Four-year Universities. Call Professor Silvester Henderson at (925) 473-7806 or (925) 565-6107 for more information regarding the Department of Music, Division of Choral Vocal Music and Keyboard Studies.



LOS MEDANOS COLLEGE CHAMBER CHORALE

Performing choral music from the “Renaissance” to the “Contemporary Era”, the Los Medanos Chamber Chorale is a highly competitive audition chorus. Recently honored with the East County NAACP’s 2014 “**Musical Excellence Award**”, the members of the Chamber Chorale are generally comprised of the Music Department’s Vocal Music Majors. Along with their conductor, Professor Silvester Carl Henderson, the LMC Chamber Chorale tours each year performing intense classical choral repertoire. They have performed at some of the most reputable universities and concerts halls throughout California and the State of Nevada. They have performed at College of Southern Nevada, San Jose City College, CSU Stanislaus, CSU Fresno, CSU Humboldt, UCLA, University of Pacific, Pacific Union College, Notre Dame De Namur University, UC Santa Cruz, and the University of Nevada, Las Vegas.

Noted UCLA Choral Professor, Dr. Rebecca Lord wrote this about the Chamber Chorale:

“Last Thursday, October 25, we were privileged to host Professor Silvester Henderson and his marvelous Chamber Chorale at UCLA. The visit was well organized and very positive from beginning to end. Professor Henderson contacted me well in advance and clearly communicated the goals of his trip, to motivate and inspire his gifted students to pursue four-year degree programs. The choir arrived in concert attire looking sharp, and the students conducted themselves like true professionals—respectful, attentive, and eager to learn. The Los Medanos Chamber Chorale and several soloists performed a variety of selections for myself, our revered voice faculty member Vladimir Chernov, our undergraduate music advisor Alfred Bradley, and several UCLA students. Professor Henderson had prepared both the choir and soloists marvelously. Their stage decorum was impressive and their sound was beautiful. They performed everything from memory and they followed Prof. Henderson’s conducting beautifully. It was a joy to hear them! Professor Chernov and myself had the opportunity to work with the choir and soloists in a master class setting, and they responded with intelligence and enthusiasm.”

Choral Master, Dr. Daniel Afonso, Director of Choral Studies, from CSU Stanislaus wrote the following:

“Congratulations on the great work you are doing at Los Medanos. I was very impressed with the large number of students participating in your choral ensembles and with the quality of their performance! Also, it was nice to hear your voice students singing individually during the first part of the concert. I was amazed with how much you are able to accomplish with them. They all showed a very good understanding of vocal technique and stage decorum/presence, and sang repertoire that was appropriate to their voices. They were very well-prepared and presented themselves with much professionalism. And, above all, they seemed to be enjoying the experience greatly!”

The Chamber Chorale organizes and hosts the Los Medanos College’s “**Annual Choral Festival**”. Their community performances for K-12 students throughout the State of California continues to validate the importance of “Music and Arts” as an integral part of the core curriculum for all schools in the United States. As creative artistic scholars, their choral performances support one of the core missions of the “Community College”, which is to promote “**Life Long Learning**”.



Professor Silvester Carl Henderson



Recently presented with the Albert Nelson 2019 *Marquis "Who's Who Lifetime Achievement Award"*, Professor Silvester Carl Henderson is a nationally recognized Professor, educator, conference motivational speaker, business owner, respected real estate investor, community artistic organizer, musician/artist, internet radio blog personality, and conductor of the Gospel Song. Professor Henderson was recently **Re-Elected** to the **"Executive Committee"** for the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges (ASCCC). Comprised of 14 members, the ASCCC *"Executive Committee"* is the major governing board, who advises and advocates for changes and implementation regarding new educational laws and policies. This body supports academic and professional matters for 72,000 California Professors and two million, two hundred thousand students. As the Current Chair of the **"Equity Diversity & Action Committee"**, for the ASCCC, Professor Henderson, advocates, for Faculty Diversity, Foster Youth, Inmate Education and academic access for African American Males. Inducted into the **"2017 Pittsburg Entertainment and Arts Hall of Fame"**, Professor Henderson earned his Bachelor of Music and his Master of Arts Degrees from San Francisco State University. He taught there from 1984 to 1994 as a Professor/Lecturer of Piano and Music Theory. During the Fall of 2016, The Gospel Academy Awards, Inc. presented Professor Henderson with a **"Gospel Music Academy Award"** for his efforts in promoting **"Higher Education"**, through the usage of African American Gospel Music. Presently, he serves as the Full-Time Tenure Professor of Choral/Vocal Activities and Emeritus Chair of the Music Department at the Los Medanos College in Pittsburg, California. Professor Henderson directs the College Chorus, Chamber Chorale, and the Gospel Choir. In addition to those responsibilities, he also teaches voice classes, applied vocal lessons, music theory, class piano, musicianship,

classical piano, and gospel piano. During the Fall of 2000, Professor Henderson developed a **"Gospel Piano Curriculum"**, which was the only collegiate academic course of its type in the State of California. Mr. Henderson is an *Emeritus Professor/Lecturer of African American Studies and Music from the University of California, Berkeley*, where he served as the original director of the internationally acclaimed Young Inspiration Gospel Choir (YIGC) from 1985 – 2005. In April of 1992, YIGC recorded their first live album entitled, **"The Gospel Experience"**. The album is placed in the permanent collection of the Smithsonian Institute's Gospel Music Division, and accordingly, they named YIGC as the "finest" university gospel choir in the nation. The choir sold over one hundred thousand copies of this historic recording. In November of 1998, The **"Second Gospel Experience"** was released, which has been shared by over forty-five thousand purchasers. The Professor's achievements can be found in "Gospel Digest" World News and World News. During January 2015, Professor Henderson was appointed as Professor/Lecturer of Choral/Vocal Activities for the College of Alameda's Department of Music. From this appointment, the **"Gospel Explosion Community Concert Series" was created**. Professor Henderson has organized community concerts and performed with celebrity classical opera artist, gospel, jazz, Broadway stars, rhythm and blues artist and musical greats such as Richard Smallwood, Reverend Daryl Coley, the late Walter Hawkins and the Love Center Choir, Kurt Carr, Quincey Fielding, Ron Kenoly Sr., V. Michael McKay, the late Helen Stephens and the Lighthouse Singers of Marin, Ca, Micah Stampley, Jon Gibson (the artist who paired with Stevie Wonder for the remake of "Have a Talk with God"), Billy Porter (New York Broadway Star and Soundtrack Artist for Bette Midler's "First Wives Club"), James Iglehart (New York Broadway Star from Aladdin), Vesta, Howard Hewett, Kenny Lattimore, Gerald Albright, LaToya London, Chris Walker, Kathy Taylor Brown, Kevin LeVar, Anita Wilson, and most recently Keisha Renee, the vocal artist from the TV show entitled **"The Voice"**. Mr. Henderson has served as musician and Minister of Music for over thirty-eight years at the Bay Area's prominent Palma Ceia Baptist Church, located in Hayward, CA. During the Professor's early administrative leadership, one of Silvester's most endeared accomplishments was to manage, organize and lead the

entire department to record their "First Album/CD" entitled, **"One Body In Christ"**. Over ten thousand copies of this highly successful musical creation were sold and have been shared with listeners as far as Japan and Africa. Over the course of close to forty years, Professor Henderson has been the recipient of many prestigious educational, religious, and community awards. He won the National Piano Competition from the Gospel Music Workshop of America, Inc., which was founded by the late gospel legend Reverend James Cleveland. He was also nominated by the Bay Area's Gospel Academy Awards as the Outstanding Pianist of the Year from 1992-1996. Professor Henderson was named as the "Most Influential African American Educator" by the Intel Corporation and the City Flight News magazine, 2001. The Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc. awarded him the "Outstanding Community Leader Award. Professor Henderson was honored with two City Proclamations by the California cities of Pittsburg and Martinez. These honors were awarded for his continuing efforts in using Gospel Music as a tool to support the value of **"Higher Education"**. Both cities named the first Saturday in May, **"Gospel Celebration Day"**. The Offices of Emeritus Congressman Pete Starks, Congressman Eric Swalwell, along with Emeritus Mayor Michael Sweeney, have bestowed upon Professor Henderson "Congressional Honors" and "Certificates of Commendation", for bringing academic recognition of the artistic value of the gospel song through unifying African American and Latino American communities. California Assembly Members Johan Kleh, Jim Frazier, Susan Bonilla, and Senators Liz Figueroa, Ellen Corbett and Mark DeSaulnier, have presented Professor Henderson with many California Legislature Resolutions and Political Documents of Recognition for his extraordinary musical achievements and his work as an educator and artist to the people of Contra Costa. **"Mr. Gospel/Jazz Production** (Professor Henderson's Performing Company) has arranged entertainment for personalities such as Reverend Jesse Jackson – *"Operation Push"* (Silicon Valley Branch, Honorable Emeritus Assemblyman Willie Brown, *La Casa de las Madre*, Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors and many noted political and county organizations. The professor was also awarded the 2004 "NAACP Educational Integrity Award". On April 25, 2005, the University of California at Berkeley, College of Letters and Science, presented Professor Henderson with an "Educational Commendation" for his twenty years of highly valued service to the university and campus community. Registered in the **"International Star Registry"** was an honor bestowed upon Professor Henderson on May 7, 2005. Professor Henderson is included in the *"Who's Who Among America's Teachers"*, "Cambridge Who's Who Registry" of Executive and Professionals. Additionally, he is part of the Remington's Registry of Professionals, which only recognizes one thousand of the most noted "Successful Executives and Professionals" in the United States, once a decade, as part of the Library of Congress. "Professor Henderson was honored on April 29, 2006 by the 35th Academy of Gospel Music Awards" in the area of "Sacred Choral Music". On July 28, 2011, AOL's **"Patch Online" Newspaper** featured a story that **"Celebrated"** his many achievements. On January 12, 2012, he was presented with the **"Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. "Community Award"** from Dow Chemical located in Pittsburg, CA. This award was given to him because of his highly successful efforts in promoting higher education and diversity through the usage of Gospel Music. Moreover, the Professor was the winner of the **"Professor of the Year"** award for the 2012-2013 academic years, sponsored by the Los Medanos College Academic Senate. Professor Henderson has been the owner of **"Mr. Gospel Properties and Investments"** for close to three decades. Because of his business acumen, the San Francisco Chronicle honored the Professor with a featured story on August 7, 2012, entitled, **"Mr. Gospel lifted by Music, Investments and Houses"**. This article is an international publication of his success, business acumen and unstoppable perseverance. Professor Henderson was named "Quarterfinalist" for the International Grammy Association's Music Educator Award, 2014. During the Fall of 2013, he was appointed **"Academic Senate President" for Los Medanos College**. On April 26, 2014, Professor Henderson was awarded the 2014 **"Community Service Award"** from the East County Branch of the NAACP. On October 21, 2014, Professor Henderson was presented with the 2014 **"Art Recognition Award"** from the Contra Costa County Arts and Culture Commission. On July 1, 2016, Professor was voted/appointed as **"President"** of the **"Faculty Senate Coordinating Council"** for the Contra Costa Community College District. This position required the Professor to serve as a communication link between the Senates of the participating campuses and the District Chancellor and/or his/her representatives. Professor Silvester Carl Henderson's educational objective is to ensure a permanent academic home for African American Music within Higher Education. Professor Henderson married Cecile Henderson during his early twenties. The Professor resides in Pleasanton, California and is the father of three daughters named Carlena, Celisse and Charde.



KYLA JADE

Kyla Jade is a vocal powerhouse and accomplished songstress who writes and produces her own music, alongside running her own music entertainment company, Love Jade. As a student of music, her mission is to give you an experience of timeless music. Quite simply, Kyla is a versatile, veritable force.

Kyla has graced audiences all over the world with her unique blend of Jazz, Gospel, R&B and Soul. Residing in Nashville, by way of Kansas, she draws from her musical training and culture to help define her sound.

Earlier this year, Kyla captured the heart of the nation while competing for Team Blake on season 14 of *The Voice* on NBC. A firm favorite with both the judges and the public, she drew praise with standout performances of “See Saw”, “You Don’t Own Me” and “This Is Me”. With millions of viewers tuning in every week to watch Kyla sing, unfazed and consistent in her strong performances, she landed herself in the final three.

Kyla first appeared on television in 2007 as a solo artist on ‘Bobby Jones Gospel’, BET’s longest running weekly program. Performing with the Nashville Super Choir, Kyla was one of Ambassador Dr. Bobby Jones’ most premier soloists. This led to many opportunities including touring with Wynonna Judd, Patti LaBelle, Jennifer Hudson, Earth Wind and Fire, Peter Frampton and The Clark Sisters.

Equally comfortable performing live or working within the studio, Kyla has headlined her own Classical Jazz cover tour in Europe, headlined for BB King’s *Memphis Blues live show*, as well as having produced background vocals for the The Grammy Awards, CMA Awards, BET Awards, Dove Awards, Stellar Awards and BET’s Celebration of Gospel.

Recently Kyla performed live at the Special Olympics opening ceremony and during the ‘*Capitol Fourth*’ Independence Day celebration, which was televised live on PBS in Washington, DC. She was also a panelist discussing the ‘*The Genius of Soul Music*’ during the Aspen Ideas festival, as well as performing to a sold-out crowd during her first ever New York headline show at the Apollo Theater.

Welcoming in the 2018 holiday season, Kyla performed during the finale of the Macy’s 71st Annual Great Tree Lighting, an iconic holiday tradition in Atlanta. The show was broadcast live on WSB TV (ABC affiliate) to those all across Georgia, North Carolina and Alabama.

Kyla’s holiday EP ‘***Dear Christmas***’ is available now.

CONTACT: ZAK SHRAPNELL // zak@atworkmanagement.com // 818-736-5997



Dr. Kirk Anthony James

New York University – Silver School of Social Work

Kirk Anthony James is a Clinical Assistant Professor at the NYU Silver School of Social Work. His areas of “*Expertise*” are Mass Incarceration and the intersection of race, class, power, privilege, immigration and critical pedagogy; Trauma and healing modalities for impacted people; Human rights and social justice frameworks.

He completed his doctorate from the School of Social Policy and Practice at The University of Pennsylvania in May 2013. His dissertation, “The Invisible Epidemic in Social Work Academia,” examined the complex phenomena of mass incarceration through a historical and contemporary lens. He concluded by developing curricula for Master level students to increase awareness, activism and holistic practice in the milieu. Courses developed from his dissertation have been implemented at Columbia University, Temple University, City College, and the University of Pennsylvania amongst others.

Dr. James’s primary research and publications focus on deconstructing issues of mass incarceration — specifically as it pertains to trauma, cognitive development, culpability, and the examination of systems that foster and perpetuate racial injustice. Dr. James co-created NYU Silver's Re-imagine Justice conference on mass incarceration, reentry and trauma and their intersections and implications for social work practice. He also launched the Silver School’s monthly [Mass Incarceration Conversation Series](#) (MICS), which brings people impacted by mass incarceration together with academics, activists, policy makers, and practitioners to create a more informed understanding and subsequent response to mass incarceration. In addition, he works collaboratively with the Center For Justice at Columbia University on its annual “Beyond The Bars” conference — which brings impacted people together with academics, activists, policy makers, and practitioners from across the country to create a more informed understanding, and subsequent response to mass incarceration.

Dr. James has over a decade of leadership experience in various social justice settings, and is a highly sought out speaker and human rights advocate. He has been a consultant on social justice projects from the Caribbean to Africa. At the University of Pennsylvania, he developed and directed the Goldring Reentry Initiative (GRI). The primary goals of the GRI are to identify best practices in reducing recidivism for individuals transitioning from Philadelphia jails, and to train clinical and macro level social work students to work with incarcerated individuals (pre and post release).

Celebration of Women's Diversity Award Recipients

Ms. Pamela Haynes

Pamela Haynes was appointed to the California Community Colleges Board of Governors by Governor Jerry Brown in 2016. She currently serves as the Board's vice president. Ms. Haynes has served on the Los Rios Community College District Board of Trustees for 20 years, including four terms as board president. She also sits on the Board of Trustees for the Community College League of California and the Los Rios Colleges Foundation Board. Before retiring from state service in 2012, she served for eight years as a deputy director and senior consultant for the California State Assembly, Speaker's Office of Member Services. Prior to that, she was the legislative director for the Capitol Office of Assemblymember Mark Ridley-Thomas. Ms. Haynes has also worked for the California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO; the City of Sacramento; the Bureau of State Audits; and Department of Health Services. A Santa Monica College transfer student, she has a bachelor's degree from University of California, Los Angeles and a master's degree in Public Administration from Harvard University.

Dr. Yvette Gullatt

Dr. Yvette Gullatt is the Vice Provost for Diversity and Engagement and Chief Outreach Officer for the University of California system. As Vice Provost, she is responsible for implementing UC's mission of inclusive excellence through sustainable policies, practices and programs. Yvette is in charge of system wide programs and initiatives that develop K-12 educators, improve student academic achievement in K-12 schools and California Community Colleges and advance equitable campus climates across the UC system. Her overarching goal is to achieve and sustain greater diversity among UC's student, faculty and staff communities. Yvette joined the UC Office of the President in 1999 as the system wide director for early and immediate outreach. She has held various leadership positions, including Vice Provost for Education Partnerships. In this role, she worked to expand UC's role in public education, developing data systems that help schools improve eligibility rates for UC and CSU. Yvette has forged and managed partnerships with K-12 schools, California higher education institutions and community-based organizations — such as churches and after-school clubs — to improve academic preparation for more first-generation, low-income and underrepresented students. In 2015, her role as Vice Provost grew to encompass the expansion of programs that support UC-wide diversity and inclusion efforts. She holds B.A., M.A. and Ph.D. degrees in English from UC Berkeley. She is a graduate of the Management Development Program at the Harvard Graduate School of Education and of the UC-CORO System-wide Leadership Collaborative.

Ms. Chelsea Esquibias

Chelsea Esquibias is a Central Valley Regional Coordinator at the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office. She has been appointed to the California Board for Engineers, Land Surveyors, and Geologists, Kern County Workforce Development Board, and awarded as a Top 20 Professional under 40. Chelsea's leadership at Bakersfield College lead to over 6,000 enrollments of students currently incarcerated in prison achieving an Associate Degree for Transfer across ten Central Valley prisons. She has earned her Bachelors in Business with a concentration in Management, Masters in Organizational Leadership, and completed all coursework for her for Doctorate in Leadership. Chelsea is highly committed to education and is passionate about equity for all students, especially incarcerated inmates.



California
Community
Colleges

ELOY ORTIZ OAKLEY
Chancellor

Los Medanos College
The Gospel Celebration
2700 East Leland Road
Pittsburg, Ca 94565

On behalf of the California Community Colleges, it gives me great pleasure to congratulate Ms. Pamela Haynes on receiving the *Celebration of Women Diversity* award at the Los Medanos College 25th Silver Anniversary Gospel Celebration Reunion Concert. As the Vice President of the California Community Colleges, Board of Governors and an active civic leader in the greater Sacramento region, Ms. Haynes is a tireless champion of diversity in education throughout the state and in her community. She is a vocal proponent of diversity in higher education and actively participates in several committees and organizations that promote those ideals.

The California Community Colleges provide more access to higher education for low-income students and students of color than any other system of higher education in the nation. It is because of leaders like Pamela Hayes that we continue to prioritize diversity in our classrooms.

Congratulations!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'ELOY ORTIZ OAKLEY', written in a cursive style.

Eloy Ortiz Oakley
Chancellor- California Community Colleges

Chancellor's Office
1102 Q Street, Sacramento, CA 95811 | 916.445.8752 | www.cccco.edu

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OFFICE OF THE PROVOST AND
EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
1111 Franklin Street, 12th Floor
Oakland, California 94607-5200

May 4, 2019

Dear Vice Provost Gullatt,

A hearty congratulations on being selected by the Celebration Arts Council of Los Medanos College to receive a Celebration of Women Diversity Award!

Each spring, at Los Medanos College's "The Gospel Celebration," individuals are honored for their social justice and community work through higher education. One of our colleagues, Director Kayton Carter of Davis's Center for African Diaspora Student Success, was honored at last year's Gospel Celebration. It is rewarding to have another UC person — in particular someone with such a rich background in educational diversity and with deep roots and emotional investment in the local community — recognized for the valued work that you continue to do to bring equity and justice into the higher education arena.

Undoubtedly the selection committee for this award sees what I also observe to be true: that your path is one driven by an intelligent marshaling of people, data and resources toward the aspirational aims of equality in access and opportunity, success for students across the spectrum of California's diverse populace, and overall academic excellence. Your leadership over the last two decades at the Office of the President — from outreach coordinator to executive director of Educational Partnerships and on to Vice Provost of Diversity and Engagement — have seen a statewide proliferation of partnerships among K-12 districts, community colleges, UC campuses, and community- and faith-based organizations, all serving to further the goals of equity and inclusion.

Your vision and dedication have rippled out in many forms, manifesting not only in specific tools such as the Transcript Evaluation Service, which helps California schools and districts track and improve college eligibility rates for underserved populations, but also in more intimately targeted local partnerships such as with LA's Bethany Church LAUNCH Academy or, closer to home, with Oakland Promise and its vision of district-wide college preparedness.

I hope you have a splendid time with the other honorees at the 25th Silver Anniversary Gospel Celebration Reunion Community Concert on May 4 at Los Medanos College Recital Hall in Pittsburg. The theme of this year's celebration is Faith, Inspiration and Resilience — A Pathway to Higher Education, and I am certain that it will be an uplifting experience, with performances by spirited and talented singers (some of whom, I understand you are related to!).

Once again, congratulations, and thank you for your outstanding work.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Michael T. Brown".

Michael T. Brown, Ph.D.
Provost and
Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs

March 3, 2019

Dear Ms. Esquibias:

On behalf of the Chancellor's Office, I would like to congratulate you for receiving the Celebration of Women Diversity Award.

Your work for social justice and promoting equitable educational opportunities is timely inspiring. Bringing the educational opportunities to the prisons has required tenacity, tact and a passion for undoing the systemic oppressions that currently exist in our society. I have been personally impressed learning how you went out of your way to hold listening sessions with students in the prisons to better understand their experience and their need for courses and schedules. I have been equally impressed with the tact in which you communicate your learnings and bring people together, the way in which you have motivated others to put student needs first.

Your success in bringing people together to work for the benefit of marginalized populations, is a direct result of your ability to listen with an open mind, form a clear understanding of the issues, and communicate in a way that brings people together. It is also a result of taking initiative and acting without fear. It is leadership for social justice at its best.

Our society needs more individuals like you. I am honored to congratulate you for this important award and know that it is one of many milestones in your work to benefit the students who most need the leadership of individuals like you.

Mina Dadgar, PhD

Executive for Guided Pathways

California Community College Chancellor's Office

LOS MEDANOS COLLEGE GOSPEL CHOIR

Conducted by their **"2014 Grammy Quarterfinalist" Conductor and Founder**, Professor Silvester Carl Henderson, the **Los Medanos College Gospel Choir** was formed in the Spring Semester of 1995. Since then, they have earned a reputation as the finest community college gospel choir in the State of California. Each year, during the month of *May*, the choir produces a **GRAND SCALE** community event called the **"GOSPEL CELEBRATION"**. This event, which in 2004 attracted over 2,300 individuals, has become one of the largest multicultural events in Contra Costa County for over twenty-five years. In addition to this, the City of Martinez declared every *first Saturday in May*, as **"Gospel Celebration Day"**. The Celebration Concerts have brought many gospel, jazz, Broadway stars, and rhythm and blues greats to the campus and community such as Gerald Albright, Kirk Carr, Lawrence Matthews and Friends, the Young Inspiration Gospel Choir, Helen Stephens and the Lighthouse Singers, Eddie Baltrip and the Voices of Fulfillment, Melanie Daniel (vocal coach for Mariah Carey), Kirk Whalum "Mr. Gospel According to Jazz", Billy Porter (New York Broadway Star and Soundtrack Artist for Bette Midler's "First Wives Club"), James Iglehart (New York Broadway Star from Aladdin), the late Reverend Daryl Coley, Norman Hutchins, Howard Hewett, Paul Jackson Jr., Micah Stampley, Kenny Lattimore, LaToya London, Chris Walker, Lawrence Beamen, Kathy Taylor Brown, Kevin LeVar, Anita Wilson and most recently Keisha Renee from the TV Show "The Voice". *During the Fall Semester of 2013, the choir performed for Dr. Vincent Harding at the "California Community College League Annual Conference". Dr. Harding is the nationally noted scholar who worked with civil rights leader, Dr. Martin Luther King.* In collaboration with the University of California Berkeley's noted, emeritus, "Young Inspiration Gospel Choir", the LMC Gospel choir presented a premier concert for the California Music Educators Association, which is the political professional association that sets educational and musical standards for all public schools in California. To a packed audience at the Sacramento Convention Center, the choir presented a **"Gospel Music Lecture Concert"**, demonstrating Professor Henderson's classification of the **"Five Styles of the Gospel Songs"**. Over the last twenty years, the Los Medanos College Gospel Choir has received many academic and nationally respected political honors. These honors have come from such distinguished leaders and organizations as Congressman George Miller, Congressman Eric Swalwell, Assemblywoman Susan Bonilla, Assemblyman Bill Quirk, Senator Ellen Corbett, Federal Glover and the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors, City of Pittsburg, Antioch, Brentwood, Oakley, Oakland, and Martinez. *On April 26, 2014, the Los Medanos Gospel Choir, along with Professor Henderson, was awarded the 2014 "Community Service Award" from the East County Branch of the NAACP. This was presented in honor of their 20th Year Celebration. Finally, the "Celebration Concert" features and unites national university personalities, K-12 educators, faith based organizations, political leaders, business owners, nationally noted performing artists, acclaimed Broadway personalities, and the general diverse community population, into a creative atmosphere that recognizes and appreciates the "GOSPEL SONG" as an artistic and educational avenue to "Save and Educate Our Children Through the Musical Arts".*

Program



Introduction Professor Silvester C. Henderson

"When a person is not singing, they are not working much either"
Egyptian Proverb

"That's When You Bless Me" by The L.A. Mass Choir
Tribute to the Memory of Mr. James Smith
Faithful Member/Gratuitous Assistant from 1998 - 2018
Los Medanos College Gospel Reunion Mass Choir
Carol Bussey, *Alto Soloist*

Acknowledgement College President
Dr. Bob Kratochvil, *President of Los Medanos College*
Chancellor Fred E. Wood/Designee, *Contra Costa Community College District*

"Group singing is cheaper than therapy, healthier than drinking, and certainly more fun than working out." – Stacy Horn (TIME Magazine – August 16, 2013)

"Psalm 117" – *Choral Praise Anthem* Cedric Rouson
Los Medanos College Gospel Choir

"Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that." – Martin Luther King, Jr.

Presentation Professor Silvester C. Henderson

LMC Gospel Reunion Medley Alumni Directors
LMC Gospel Ensemble
Kadesta Prothro-Harris, *Alumna Student Director*
Associate of Music Graduate - Los Medanos College
Richard Hayes, *Alumnus Student Director*
Associate of Music Graduate – Los Medanos College



"The most important thing to remember is this: to be ready at any moment to give up what you are for what you might become." – W.E.B DuBois

Introduction to Motivational Speaker Guest Academic Scholar

Reverend Edward Harris, *Agape Fellowship Church – Discovery Bay, CA*

Dr. Kirk Anthony James

New York University – Silver School of Social Work

"Faith, Inspiration, & Resilience: A Pathway to Higher Education"



"Change will not come if we wait for some other person or some other time. We are the ones we've been waiting for. We are the change that we seek."

– President Barack Obama

"Change is Gonna Come (*Civil Rights Anthem*)" Student Selected Soloist

Kaelisia Brown, *Alto Soloist*

"We've Come to Praise the Lord" Clark W. Joseph

Los Medanos College Reunion Gospel Choir

Casey Pringle, *Tenor Soloist*



"Celebration of Women's Diversity" Award Recipients

"Activism is the Rent I Pay for Living on this Planet" – Alice Walker

Introduction to Award Presentation Celebration Advisory Council/Staff

Professor Silvester C. Henderson

"You are beautiful, but learn to work, for you cannot eat your beauty."

African-American Proverb

Award Presenter Dr. Edward Bush – *President, Cosumnes River College*

Ms. Pamela Haynes

Vice President, Board of Governors

California Community Colleges

Sacramento, CA

Award Presenter Dr. George Sellu – *Santa Rosa Community College*

Dr. Yvette Gullatt
Vice Provost of Diversity & Engagement
University of California, Office of the President
Oakland, CA

Award Presenter Professor Marco Godinez – *Los Medanos College*

Ms. Chelsea Esquibias
Guided Pathway Regional Coordinator
California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office
Sacramento, CA



“Life is not about waiting for the storm to pass, it’s about learning to dance in the rain”
– Vivian Greene

“Rock of Ages” Tim Harris

Los Medanos College Reunion Gospel Choir
Angelo Luster & Ricardo Alexander, *Guest Tenor Duet Saxophonists*

Local Guest Performers

Casey & Erica Pringle
Hayward, CA

Los Medanos College Reunion Chamber Chorale
Pittsburg, CA

Ricardo Alexander
Saxophonist
Brentwood, CA

Palma Ceia Baptist Church Mass Choir
Hayward, CA

Angelo Luster
Saxophonist
Alameda, CA

Faith Chorale
Ceres, CA

“Career Paths that are based on service, communication, art, and humanities, fulfill Dr. Martin Luther King’s Dream of building safe, healthy, and thriving communities.”
– Professor Silvester C. Henderson (East Bay Times – January 13, 2013)

Special Guest Performer

Introduction to Special Guest Performer Charde Elizabeth Henderson
(Youngest Daughter of Professor Silvester Henderson)
Contra Costa Community College Graduate
Associate of Liberal Arts – Diablo Valley College/Los Medanos College
Bachelors of Arts – Comparative Literature, University of California, Berkeley

Kyla Jade

Celebrity Vocalist & Top Contender from NBC’s “The Voice”
Nashville, TN

“Education is what you know, not what’s in the book.”
African-American Proverb

Final Comments Professor Silvester C. Henderson
Gospel Celebration Festival CEO – Artistic Organizer
Director of Choral-Vocal Activities & Keyboard Studies (LMC)
Academic Senate for California Community Colleges (ASCCC) – At Large Senate Representative
Equity Diversity & Action Committee – Chair (ASCCC Statewide Committee)

This program was funded by President Bob Kratochvil and the Institutional Development of Equity and Access (IDEA) Committee – Dr. Sabrina Kwist, Dean of Equity and Inclusion, along with Contra Costa County District V Supervisor, Mr. Federal Glover, and the many thousands of national and international supporters.

A heartfelt thank you and sincere appreciation given to Dr. Bob Kratochvil, President of Los Medanos College; Dr. Fred Wood, Chancellor, CCCCD; Dr. Helen Benjamin, Emeritus Chancellor, CCCCD, Mr. Federal D. Glover, County Supervisor; Ms. Nancy Ybarra, Dean of Liberal Arts; Dr. Sabrina Kwist, Dean of Equity and Inclusion; The California State Legislature Assembly-members and Senators, Ms. Pamela Haynes; Dr. Yvette Gullatt; Ms. Chelsea Esquibias; Dr. Edward Bush; Dr. George Sellu; Professor Marco Godinez; Ms. Kyla Jade; Dr. Kirk Anthony James; Local Musical Guests; LMC Reunion Gospel Choir; LMC Chamber Chorale Reunion Choir; LMC Reunion Choral Extras; LMC Reunion Professional Music Staff; Celebration Advisory Council/Staff; LMC Full-Time Faculty; Contra Costa County Residents; Judy Prieve & Bay Area News Group; Dan and Frank Rundall; and Mr. Aaron Nakaji and Ms. Abbey Duldulao.

Los Medanos College Reunion Gospel Choir

Soprano

Donna Bussey
Janice Bynum ♪
Georgia Davis-Baker *
Jasmine Gaines *
Louisa Hasak
Anna Horrocks
Erica Pringle *
Keturah Prothro-Harris
Lena Trotter
Emily Woodall
Lyssette Zamora

Alto

Angelas Ashley
Kaelisia Brown
Carol Bussey
Sonya Gasaway *
Kalana Greer *
Patricia Johnson *
Raquel Johnson
Diane LeMay
Taylor Lewis
Pia Mariano
Kadesta Prothro-Harris *#
Deja Sullivan
Deborah Walters *
Courtney Wysinger

Tenor

Rocco Brown
Tyrell Burks
David Chong
David Dioff
Kerwin Falls
Edward Harris
Richard Hayes #
Avery Hodge
Matthew Levy
Yuhe Liang
Alec Olson
Casey Pringle *
Jason Roberts
Jeffrey Scott *
James Smith ♪
Tuanita Trotter
Regina Turner *
Solomon Uhuru
Aaron Watkins
Larry Walker

Bass/Baritone

James Bradley
Gianpierre Carrasco
Christopher Felton
Grayson Jolivet
Kyle Martinez
Omar Rivero
Marcel Saunders *

* Guest Choral Extra

+ LMC Gospel Ensemble

Alumni Student Director

♪ Emeritus Status

Los Medanos College Reunion Chamber Chorale

Soprano

Isabella Bishop
Ally Dick
Holly Gordon
Anna Horrocks
Eileen Sipsy
Shiela Triolo
Kylie Tussing
Lyssette Zamora

Alto

Kaelisia Brown
Sarah Brumfield
Sonya Gasaway
Mariel Gonzalez
Diane LeMay
Kadesta Prothro-Harris #
Deborah Walters

Tenor

Rocco Brown
Desashan Butler
David Chong
Edward Harris
Richard Hayes #
Yuhe Liang
Marcel Saunders *
Sean Wright

Bass/Baritone

Timothy Bernardi
James Bradley
Christopher Felton
Gianpierre Carrasco
Grayson Jolivet
Donald Lang
Kyle Martinez
Tyler Wright

Celebration Advisory Council/Staff



Attorney Carol Bussey
Political Strategist

Ms. Donna Bussey
Event & Reception Coordinator

Reverend Kadesta Prothro-Harris
*Graduate & Alumni Student Director/Vocal
Consultant/Uniform Coordinator*

Reverend Edward Harris
Community Chaplain/Faith Based Liaison

Ms. Diane Lemay
Reception Coordinating Assistant/Celebration Seamstress

Major Jason Roberts
Community Marketing Director/Uniform Coordinator

Mr. Richard Hayes
Graduate & Alumni Student Director

Mr. Aaron Nakaji
Music Department Coordinator/Manager



Celebration Advisory Volunteer Staff



Angelas Ashley
Leonard “Rocco” Brown
Tyrell Burks
Abbey Duldulao
Sonya Gasaway
Patricia Johnson
LMC S.T.R.E.A.M Recording Arts Club
Alec Olson
Keturah Prothro-Harris
Jason Roberts
Deja Sullivan
Larry Walker
Deborah Walters

Los Medanos Professional Music Staff

David Jackson, Keyboardist
LJ Holoman, Keyboardist
Richard Hayes, Keyboardist,
LMC Alumni Student Director
Calvin Brown, Bass Guitarist
Clarence Lewis Jr., Drummer
Omar Maxwell, Drummer
Ricardo Alexander, Saxophonist
Angelo Luster, Saxophonist
Professor David Chong, Percussionist



*In appreciation and gratitude to our "Past Student
Directors, Professional Musicians, & Alumni"*

Alumni Student Directors

Shana Maxwell
Monroe Howard
Richard Hayes
Kadesta Prothro-Harris

Alumni Musicians

Michael Blankenship, Keyboardist
David Jackson, Keyboardist
Jonathan DeCuir, Keyboardist
LJ Holoman, Keyboardist/Organist
Tim Poston, Keyboardist/Organist
Richard Hayes, Keyboardist, LMC Alumni Student Director
Ernest Dayce, Keyboardist
Immanuel Junaedy, Keyboardist
Bryan Simmons, Keyboardist
Juan Perez, Keyboardist
Elias Lucero, Lead Guitarist
Calvin Brown, Bass Guitarist
Vincent Rillera, Bass Guitarist
Clarence Lewis Jr., Drummer
Omar Maxwell, Drummer
Ricardo Alexander, Saxophonist
Angelo Luster, Saxophonist
Kevin Moore, Saxophonist
Professor David Chong, Percussionist
Regina Cartwright-Morales, Percussionist

Past Guest Performers & Participants (1995 - present)

Classical Artists

Antonio Nagore
Burr Cochran Phillips
Chadwick Somers
Deborah Benedict
Dr. Candace Johnson
Dr. Duana Demus-Leslie
Gregory Marks
Hope Briggs
Ivanna Taratula
Jennifer Grover
Karen Anderson
Rabihah Davis Dunn
Renee Tatum
Taiwo Kujichagulia-Seito
Tracy Sarimento

Celebrity Guests

Anita Wilson
Billy Porter
Celisse Henderson
Chris Haynes & Ethology
Chris Walker
Dean Mills
Eddie Baltrip & the Voices of Fulfillment
Gerald Albright
Glen Pearson
Helen Stephens & the Lighthouse Singers
Howard Hewett
James Inglehart
Ja Ronn Thompson & FLOW
Kathy Taylor Brown
Keisha Renee
Kenny Lattimore
Kevin LeVar
Kirk Whalum
Kurt Carr
Kyla Jade
La Fuerza Gigante
LaToya London
Lawrence Beaman
Lawrence Matthews & Friends
Lena Byrd-Miles
Melanie Daniel
Micah Stampley
Norman Hutchins
Paul Jackson Jr.
Reverend Daryl Coley
Ric Alexander
Simon Russell
The Young Inspirational Gospel Choir

Community Colleges & Choruses

Blackhawk Chorus
College of Alameda *
College of Southern Nevada (South) *
Contra Costa College Choir
De Anza College Concert Choir
Fresno City College *
Los Angeles City College *
Mills College
Monterey Peninsula College *

Oakland Jazz Choir
San Jose City College
Santa Clara Chorale
Skyline College Jazz Choir
Solano Community College *
Voices of Musica Sacra

Local Faith Community/Local Artists

Aaron Lopez & the Nor Cal Mass Choir
Adam Blackman
Adreanna Robinson
Amar Khalil
Ambassadors for Change
Angelo Luster
Ashling Cole
Benjamin Ofori
Berkeley Gospel Choir
Bishop Carleton Leonard and the "Word of Life Choir"
Byrd Sisters
Calvary Temple Celebration Choir
Carlena Henderson
Carlos Soto
Casey & Erica Pringle
Church of the Good Shepherd Choir
Comedian Lenard "The Kid" Jackson
Covenant Worship Center Choir
David Jackson & Associates
Deborah Porter
Demetrius Tolfree Singers
Derrick Hall & Company
Divine Voices
DMD Mime Group
Donell Garrett
Donell Thomas
Duana Demus
Elizabeth Ayala
Eric Claybon & Reign
Eugene Cole
Ezel Ealy III & Sunday Night Praise
First Commandment
Four Horns One Voice
Friendship Baptist Church Choir
Goldenhill Community Church Choir
Gutierrez Brothers
Hillside Church Praise & Worship Band, Antioch
Jacqueline Imani Scott
Jeffrey Scott
Jim Martin
Jonathan Nadel
Jordan Christie
Juan Perez, San Jose
Jubilee Christian Church Choir
Judah Praise
Kathleen Myers
Kevin Moore
Leah Tysse
Luis Acosta Orchestra
Mia Zuniga
Michael Blankenship
Michael Cheadle
Mickala Cheadle
Mighty Men of Faith

Past Guest Performers & Participants (1995 - present)

Local Faith Community/Local Artists (continued)

Mount Zion Baptist Church Mass Choir
 New Beginnings Christian Center Choir
 New Birth Church Praise Team
 New Sons of "Mr. Gospel"
 Nona Brown
 Nu-Vizion
 Nysa Shenay
 P. Y. Crew
 Palma Ceia Baptist Church Mass Choir
 Pamela Brooks
 Part of Three
 Pastor Bryant C. Wyatt, Sacramento
 Patrick Bradley
 PCB Youth Choral Ministries Mass Choir
 Pittsburg Community Choir
 Reconciliation
 Reggie Graham Project
 Ricardo Moreno
 Roberto Ramon
 Robin Hodge- Williams
 Rusty Watson
 Sandra Iglehart
 Sara Williams
 Shana Maxwell & Friends
 Sharine Buchanan
 Shonte Herring
 Sista's n' Motion
 Solomon Temple Baptist Church Mass Choir
 Stephanie Harwood
 Sylvester Burks with Kenny & Ministries
 Terrance Kelly
 The Faith Chorale
 The Sonz, Oakland
 The Three Gospel Tenors
 Tim Poston & the Voice of Celebration
 Titus Starks
 Tracy White
 Tri-Valley Component Community Choir
 Troy Marshall
 Vadia Rhodes
 Vessels of Honor
 Victorious
 Voices of Fulfillment
 Walnut Creek Gospel Choir
 Well-Tempered Voices
 Willaenia Watts-Ross
 William Neely
 Young Voices of Penial Baptist Church

Public Schools K-12

4" Street Elementary School *
 Acalanes High School Choral Ensemble
 Antioch High School, Music Masters
 Berean Christian High School Choir
 Black Diamond Middle School
 Bracken Elementary School *
 California High School Chamber Singers
 Castlemont High School Castleer Vocal Ensemble
 College Park High School Choir
 Concord High School Concert Choir

Contra Costa Children's Chorus
 San Mateo High School
 Aragon High School
 Deer Valley High School Choirs
 Freedom High School Choir
 Hamilton Elementary School *
 Hayward High School Choir
 Hillside High School
 Kimball High School *
 Kimball High School Choral Department
 Liberty Union High School
 McKinley Elementary School *
 Monte Vista High School Chamber Singers
 Monte Vista Middle School *
 Northgate High School Madrigal Singers
 Pinole Valley High Jazz Choir
 Pittsburg High School
 Santa Cruz High School *
 Seaside High School
 Skyline High School Voices of the Sky
 Tennyson High School Choir

Universities

Cal State East Bay Singers
 Chico State University
 CSU Fresno *
 CSU Stanislaus *
 CSU Stanislaus Chamber Singers
 Fresno State University Choir
 Holy Names University Chamber Singers
 Humboldt State University *
 Nightingales of Saint Mary's College
 Notre Dame de Namur University *
 Pacific Union College *
 San Jose State University, Pitch Please
 SF State University Gospel Choir
 UC Berkeley Young Inspiration Gospel Choir
 UC Santa Cruz *
 UCLA*
 University of Pacific, Pacific Singers
 University of Nevada, Reno *

Guest Speakers

Dr. Charles Kronengold
 Professor Evan Wade
 Dr. Sanjay Marwah
 Dr. Ameer Thompson
 Dr. Amanda Morrison
 Dr. Dean Suzuki
 Dr. Kirk Anthony James
 Dr. Tyrone Howard

Award Recipients

Ms. Chelsea Esquibias
 Dr. Edward Bush
 Mr. Kayton Carter
 Mr. Paul Ramirez
 Ms. Pamela Haynes
 Dr. Yvette Gullatt

* LMC Educational Tour Destinations

Los Medanos College Summer Classes 2019

MUSIC-015: Basic Music (6/17 - 7/11)

M, Tu, W, Th: 11:20 – 2:50 PM

MUSIC-030: Basic Keyboard Skills (6/17 - 7/11)

M, Tu, W, Th: 8:00 – 11:10 AM

Los Medanos College Fall Classes 2019

MUSIC-001: Music Studio (8/26 - 12/13)

Allows Use of Practice Rooms

MUSIC-008: Applied Music (8/26 - 12/13)

By Arrangement

MUSIC-015: Basic Music (8/26 - 12/13)

Tu: 3:20 – 6:30 PM

MUSIC-030: Basic Keyboard Skills (8/26 - 12/13)

M, W: 9:30 – 11:10 AM

MUSIC-060: College Chorus I (8/26 - 12/13)

M, W: 11:00 – 12:35 PM

MUSIC-077: College Chorus I (8/26 - 12/13)

M, W: 11:00 – 12:35 PM

MUSIC-066: Gospel Choir (8/26 - 12/13)

Tu: 6:40 – 9:45 PM

MUSIC-065: Class Voice (8/26 - 12/13)

M, W: 12:45 – 2:10 PM

MUSIC-067: Jazz & Vocal Popular Techniques (8/26 - 12/13)

M, W: 12:45 – 2:10 PM

For more information contact Silvester Henderson
(925) 473-7806 or (925) 565-6107 or shenderson@losmedanos.edu

Singing Changes Your Brain

Group singing has been scientifically proven to lower stress, relieve anxiety, and elevate endorphins

When you sing, musical vibrations move through you, altering your physical and emotional landscape. Group singing, for those who have done it, is the most exhilarating and transformative of all. It takes something incredibly intimate, a sound that begins inside you, shares it with a roomful of people and it comes back as something even more thrilling: harmony. So it's not surprising that group singing is on the rise. According to Chorus America, 32.5 million adults sing in choirs, up by almost 10 million over the past six years. Many people think of church music when you bring up group singing, but there are over 270,000 choruses across the country and they include gospel groups to show choirs like the ones depicted in *Glee* to strictly amateur groups like Choir! Choir! Choir! singing David Bowie's *The Man Who Sold the World*.

As the popularity of group singing grows, science has been hard at work trying to explain why it has such a calming yet energizing effect on people. What researchers are beginning to discover is that singing is like an infusion of the perfect tranquilizer, the kind that both soothes your nerves and elevates your spirits.

The elation may come from endorphins, a hormone released by singing, which is associated with feelings of pleasure. Or it might be from oxytocin, another hormone released during singing, which has been found to alleviate anxiety and stress. Oxytocin also enhances feelings of trust and bonding, which may explain why still more studies have found that singing lessens feelings of depression and loneliness. A very recent study even attempts to make the case that "music evolved as a tool of social living," and that the pleasure that comes from singing together is our evolutionary reward for coming together cooperatively, instead of hiding alone, every cave-dweller for him or herself.

The benefits of singing regularly seem to be cumulative. In one study, singers were found to have lower levels of cortisol, indicating lower stress. A very preliminary investigation suggesting that our heart rates may sync up during group singing could also explain why singing together sometimes feels like a guided group meditation. Study after study has found that singing relieves anxiety and contributes to quality of life. Dr. Julene K. Johnson, a researcher who has focused on older singers, recently began a five year study to examine group singing as an affordable method to improve the health and well-being of older adults.

It turns out you don't even have to be a good singer to reap the rewards. According to one 2005 study, group singing "can produce satisfying and therapeutic sensations even when the sound produced by the vocal instrument is of mediocre quality." Singing groups vary from casual affairs where no audition is necessary to serious, committed professional or avocational choirs like the Los Angeles Master Chorale or my chorus in New York City, which I joined when I was 26 and depressed, all based on a single memory of singing in a choir at Christmas, an experience so euphoric I never forgot it.

If you want to find a singing group to join, ChoirPlace and ChoralNet are good places to begin, or more local sites like the New York Choral Consortium, which has links to the Vocal Area Network and other sites, or the Greater Boston Choral Consortium. But if you can't find one at any of these sites, you can always google "choir" or "choral society" and your city or town to find more. Group singing is cheaper than therapy, healthier than drinking, and certainly more fun than working out. It is the one thing in life where feeling better is pretty much guaranteed. Even if you walked into rehearsal exhausted and depressed, by the end of the night you'll walk out high as a kite on endorphins and good will. - Stacy Horn, Aug. 16, 2013 (*TIME MAGAZINE*)

