

CANTON MCKINLEY

HALL OF
DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI



DOUBLETREE HOTEL

September 03, Two Thousand Twenty Six

HALL OF DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI



PROGRAM

I. Invocation

*Anna Ascani, Senior
McKinley High School*

II. Dinner

III. Welcome

Jeff Talbert, Superintendent

VI. Opening Remarks

*R.J. Van Almen, Committee Chair
Canton City Schools*

V. Distinguished Alumni Presentation

*Anna Ascani, Senior
McKinley High School*

VI. Closing Remarks

*Scott Russ, President
Canton City Schools, Board of Education*



HALL OF DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI

It is with immense pride that the Canton City School District introduces a new class to the Canton McKinley Hall of Distinguished Alumni. This evening, we celebrate twelve exceptional graduates whose careers in public service, education, sports, entertainment, the military, and community leadership exemplify our district's core values of excellence, leadership, and community-building. Each honoree has not only achieved great success in their respective fields but has also served as a powerful role model for our students and the entire Canton community.

We also honor a Heritage Class, recognizing trailblazing alumni posthumously, whose legacies continue to inspire. This class sets a lasting tradition, celebrating the Bulldog pride that is defined by hard work, resilience, innovation, and service. Where Champions are Made and Success is Tradition is more than just our motto—it's the spirit that defines this class. Go Pups!

Jeffery Talbert, Superintendent ~ Canton City Schools

Welcome Distinguished Alumni and guests. Tonight's event will bring to light the many accomplishments and success stories of our incredible McKinley High School graduates. Recognizing these individuals that have gone on to do many remarkable things is truly an honor and an inspiration to all. I thank you for joining us tonight while we shine a spotlight on this impressive group of McKinley Alumni.

Scott Russ, Board of Education President ~ Canton City Schools



DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI

CLASS OF 2026



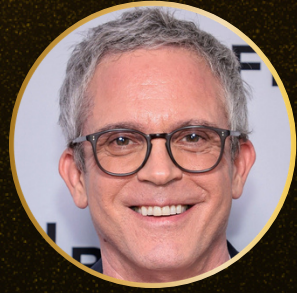
CONSULTANT

Dr. Shakeer Abdullah



COMMISSIONER

Amanda Archer



WRITER/PRODUCER

Brannon Braga



JOURNALIST

Toyna Strong-Charles



GOLD MEDALIST

Ronnie Harris



GOLD MEDALIST

Phil Hubbard



ATTORNEY

Kyle L. Stone



HERITAGE ALUMNI

CLASS OF 2026



CONSULTANT

Dr. Obie Bender



PUBLIC SERVANT

Walter Cherry



CONDUCTOR

Randall Fleischer



SISTER

Dr. Helen Lalinsky



PSYCHOLOGIST

Dr. Norma Marcere

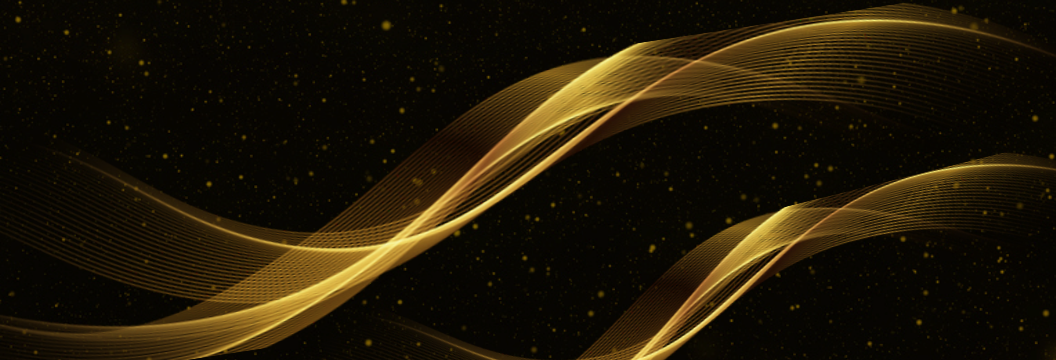
PATRON OF EXCELLENCE



BROADCASTER

Scott Davis

This year we have added a Patron of Excellence, a special honor reserved for a non-McKinley graduate who has demonstrated extraordinary dedication to the Canton City School District and the wider community.





We gather with great pride and profound appreciation to celebrate a remarkable group of individuals whose accomplishments exemplify the very best of the Canton McKinley High School tradition.

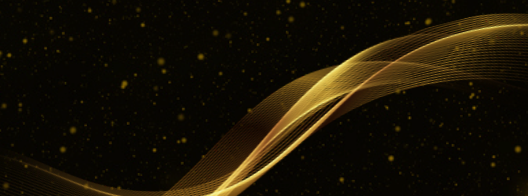
It is an honor to welcome the second class of the Canton McKinley High School Hall of Distinguished Alumni. Each honoree has forged a path marked by excellence, perseverance, leadership, and service—values that have long defined the Bulldog spirit.

Their achievements extend far beyond the honors and accolades they have earned. Through their careers, their service, and contributions to their communities, they have made a meaningful and lasting difference. Their journeys remind us that success is not measured solely by what we accomplish, but also by the lives we touch and the examples we leave for those who follow.

This year's inductees represent the enduring legacy of Canton McKinley High School: a commitment to hard work, character, resilience, and the pursuit of excellence. Their stories inspire our students, strengthen our community, and demonstrate the extraordinary possibilities that begin within these halls.

Congratulations to the 2026 Class of the Canton McKinley High School Hall of Distinguished Alumni. We are proud to call you Bulldogs, and even prouder to call you Distinguished Alumni.

Chairman,
R. J. Van Almen

A decorative gold ribbon flows from the bottom right corner of the slide, mirroring the design element in the top left.

**CPEA Proudly Congratulates
The 2026 Distinguished Alumni**



**Your remarkable achievements & contributions
to your fields are inspiring**

CONGRATULATIONS INDUCTEES

*Dr. Shakeer Abdullah ~ Amanda Archer
Brannon Braga ~ Toyna Strong-Charles
Ronnie Harris ~ Phil Hubbard ~ Kyle L. Stone
Dr. Obie Bender ~ Walter Cherry
Randall Fleischer ~ Dr. Helen Lalinsky
Dr. Norma Marcere ~ Scott Davis*

The Canton City Schools ~ Board of Education