

Nate Thomas Dinner & Award Ceremony

Friday, May 5, 2023

6:00 p.m - 8:30 p.m

MTCC Ballroom

McCormick Tribune Campus Center (MTCC), 3201 S State St, Chicago, IL 60616

Muhammad Ali Award

This recognition is presented to graduating students of color on the Illinois Institute of Technology campus each year. Candidates must be in good standing and have a cumulative GPA of at least 2.5. Candidates must have significantly benefited the Illinois Tech student body. This award will be presented to two students.

To be eligible for the Muhammad Ali Award, students must exemplify the essence of Muhammad Ali's six key characteristics, which are confidence, conviction, dedication, respect, giving, and spirituality. How has the nominee actively demonstrated their devotion to Muhammad Ali's six basic principles?

The nomination deadline for the Nate Thomas Award Ceremony is Friday, April 21, 2023, at 11:59 p.m. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Black Student Union Secretary, Tukesha Hill, at bsu@iit.edu.

Maya Angelou Award

This recognition is presented to graduating students of color on the Illinois Institute of Technology campus each year. Candidates must be in good standing and have a cumulative GPA of at least 2.5. Candidates must have significantly benefited the Illinois Tech student body. This award will be presented to two students.

This award was established in recognition of Maya Angelou's poem, [*I Know Why The Caged Bird Sings*](#). According to Maya Angelou, a free bird does not always appreciate the things and

possibilities that they have, whereas a bird in a cage can only dream of being free in order to explore new things that could never materialize. In the poem, there is a line: “*The caged bird sings, with a fearful trill, of things unknown, but longed for still, and his tune is heard, on the distant hill, for the caged bird, sings of freedom.*” How has the nominee shown that it is time to stop singing and start playing the instrument?

The nomination deadline for the Nate Thomas Award Ceremony is Friday, April 21, 2023, at 11:59 p.m. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Black Student Union Secretary, Tukesha Hill, at bsu@iit.edu.

Marsha P. Johnson Award

This recognition is presented to graduating students of color on the Illinois Institute of Technology campus each year. Candidates must be in good standing and have a cumulative GPA of at least 2.5. Candidates must have significantly benefited the Illinois Tech student body. This award will be presented to two students.

Students of color who are graduating must provide an instance when they have repeatedly shown their efforts to advocate for others on the basis of race, gender, and sexual orientation in the face of rejection in order to be considered for the Marsha P. Johnson award.

The nomination deadline for the Nate Thomas Award Ceremony is Friday, April 21, 2023, at 11:59 p.m. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Black Student Union Secretary, Tukesha Hill, at bsu@iit.edu.

Malcolm X Award

This award is given to the faculty and staff of the Illinois Institute of Technology each year. Candidates must vigorously promote the academic success and benefits of students of color at Illinois Tech. Candidates must have had a positive impact on students' college experiences. This award will be presented to two faculty members.

To be eligible for the Malcolm X award, faculty and staff must explain a time when they have advocated for students against the following Malcolm X. *"The press is so powerful in its image-making role, it can make the criminal look like he's a victim and make the victim look like he's the criminal. This is the press—an irresponsible press. It will make the criminal look like he's the victim and make the victim look like he's the criminal. If you aren't careful, the newspapers will have you hating the people who are being oppressed and loving the people who are doing the oppressing."*

The nomination deadline for the Nate Thomas Award Ceremony is Friday, April 21, 2023, at 11:59 p.m. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Black Student Union Secretary, Tukesha Hill, at bsu@iit.edu.