

Presidential Farewell Address



To: Family, Friends, and Members of the Carthage Community

Subject: Presidential Farewell Address

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First and foremost, I want to thank God for never letting me go and for always keeping me in his hands. I secondly want to thank my loving and supporting family, friends, and extended family. Furthermore I want to thank my executive team, Nicole Biba, Kaeleen Smith, Michael Malyszek, Alex Papiez, Andrew Kasica, Brandon Swensen, our lovely advisors, Auntie Liz and Uncle Nick, and to all of you, Student Government and the Carthage community, for allowing me to serve as your Student Government President, and not just your Student Government President, but as your one of the First African American President's to serve at Carthage.

I want to use this opportunity to recognize the achievements of this administration and to empower the next generation of leaders that I will have the pleasure to work alongside. Student Government has been the most productive it has ever been, involving ourselves in various projects to help the student experience. This is the vision I had when I took this sacred oath of office, that I wanted to build a foundation of positivity and good ground for all of the Carthage community to embrace. This year, we have made significant strides to elevating student voices and experiences, as well as faculty, staff, and administration experiences, and we all worked together to allow Carthage to be at its highest potential.

This year, we have:

- Filled up the Student Body for the first time in Student Government since the increase of senators, including newer perspectives.

- Influenced and Implemented the Gender Inclusion Housing floor that will be installed next year in Madrigano. Special thanks to Megan Baumeister, Nicole Biba, and all of those involved to make this happen.
- We have established a stronger bond between our faculty, staff, students, and administration and have incorporated more of the student voice in college affairs.
- We have allocated almost 80% of our funds this semester to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion initiatives and programs.
- We have installed menstrual product dispensers, thank you to Nicole Biba across campus free for students to use.
- We have implemented resolutions advocating for transparency in communication, bolstering support for faculty and staff, expediting camera installations, and various other impactful measures.
- We have collaborated with many departments, organizations within and outside of Carthage, to ensure that we are embodying our mission as an institution and building our community within Carthage.
- We have collaborated with CAB with our Skating Event for the first time ever!
- We have internally become a great cornerstone of Carthage College.
- We were able to plan our Inaugural State of the College, which brought transparency within our school as Carthage prepares for the future.

With all this, I say thank you. We have truly made an impact on this campus and how it should be. I am truly proud of our accomplishments.

I leave this Student Government body with a few things that I have learned throughout this journey.

1. Never forget the purpose behind your leadership. You are in the position to represent those that may not have a voice, and I charge you to amplify your voice and efforts to create effective and meaningful change on this campus and in your lives. You represent more than just yourself, you represent those not represented, and it's an intriguing task that you are wanting to do. The world has not heard your voice yet, and it is time to shine your voice, whether that is speaking or using your talents to spark the world.
2. Stay committed. No matter what Student Government has gone through, I have always stayed committed to the values that this organization holds and I believe and trust the processes that we create to create an atmosphere of inclusion and positivity on this campus. Even when things don't go the way we expect them to, I still dedicate myself to anything that I am involved in because I believe and have faith that good will come.
3. Lastly, I leave you with this. Remember that the wings that you use to soar are always developing. You are still developing, and please remember that even your mistakes can bless your future. Like the geese outside, their wings develop and grow, just like you will.

It has truly been an honor to be one of the first African American Student Government Presidents and to be a servant leader here on this campus and within Student Government. Godspeed to all of you, and I wish you all the best.

Phillip Malachi Hunter

President of the 2023-2024 Carthage Student Government

