

John Upshaw will speak at UU Lima Sunday Services, Jan. 13, 2013

John A. Upshaw is Special Assistant and Chief Diversity Officer/Chair of the Diversity Council at The Ohio State University at Lima. In this position, Upshaw leads the charge of creating a culture of diversity as relates to the mission of the University. To achieve this feat, Upshaw is charged with assessing and revising existing practices and then making recommendations in the planning and developing of new practices and initiatives that will promote diversity on the campus. Such initiatives include but not limited to: increasing the number of underrepresented/minority students, faculty and staff as well as the retaining of these groups and creating diversity awareness and engagement initiatives as well as developing partnerships with minority-owned and women-owned suppliers/businesses.

It is also important to note that as a result of Upshaw's efforts to promote diversity in the community, he received the Ebony Award (November 2009) during the 73rd Annual Celebration at the Bradfield Community Association (BCA). The Ebony Award recipients are honored for their efforts to promote harmony between the races in the community.

Upshaw's work with the Lima Family Y.M.C.A. Black Achievers program has led to The Ohio State University at Lima being recognized as the volunteer organization of the year (2007-2008 and 2011-2012) and John also received the 2010 Volunteer of the Year Award presented by the Lima Y.M.C.A. Black Achievers.

Moreover, Upshaw has immersed himself in a number of ways to keep actively involved and engaged in the community from a community outreach perspective. To this end, Upshaw is currently a facilitator for anger management/domestic violence and he is facilitator for S.T.R.I.V.E. (Students Teaching Relationship Intervention through Violence Education). Additionally, he serves as a Shelter Volunteer for Crossroads Crisis Center, Incorporated. Upshaw is also a facilitator for the Positive Lifestyles Career Program via the Lima City Schools and serves on the Lima Family YMCA's Black Achievers Steering Committee and the Men Choosing Nonviolence Committee through the Partnership for Violence Free Families. Upshaw is also a certified instructor for OPTA (Ohio Police Officers Training Academy) and serves as Assistant Professor in Humanities and Social Sciences at Rhodes State College.

Upshaw is also working to receive certification as a State Registered Advocate through NOVA (National Organization for Victim Assistance). Moreover, Upshaw completed his graduate degree from the University of Dayton, a bachelor's degree from Bluffton University and an Associate's Degree in Applied Sciences from Rhodes State College. He is also a member of ODOC (Ohio Diversity Officers Collaboration), NOVA (National Organization for Victim Assistance), ODVN (Ohio Domestic Violence Network) and NAYDO (North American YMCA Development Organization).