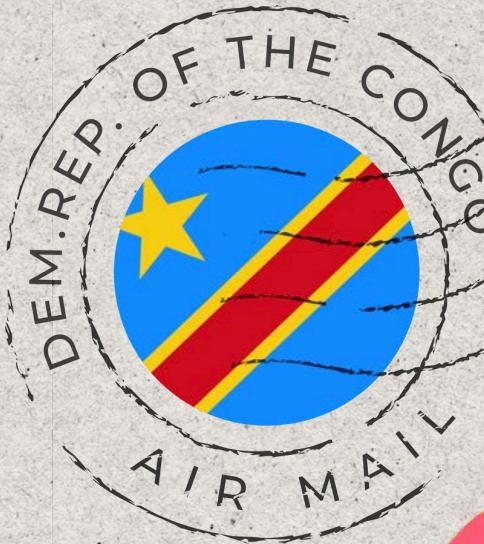


# CARL BASILA



HI EVERYONE, I'M HONORED TO SHARE WITH YOU A LITTLE BIT ABOUT MYSELF. I WAS BORN AND RAISED IN KINSHASA, REPUBLIC DEMOCRATIC OF CONGO. I'M THE ELDEST IN A FAMILY OF 4 CHILDREN WITH ONE SISTER AND TWO BROTHERS...

*"Perseverance, determination, commitment, and courage, those things are real. The desire for redemption drives you. And the will to succeed, it's everything." — Michael Phelps.*

that ended with a change in political regime. I also survived a gender-based assault that deeply affected my formative years. Mentally I was broken for a long time, but I never completely gave up on myself. Somehow, I kept pushing forward. **I don't even know where that determination came from, but I used it to work harder in school. Becoming the top student in my class was a way to reclaim what I felt had been taken from me.**

After high school, with my parents' support, I moved out of my home country to attend college in Algeria. My aunt joined me there a year later after being appointed as a diplomat. During that time, I also worked as a translator with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. This meaningful experience shaped my perspective on service and responsibility.

**In 2015, after my father passed away, I moved to the United States.** Coming here alone without any family and still grieving, it was one of the hardest challenges of my life. I struggled deeply and cried often. To support myself, I worked as a babysitter and later volunteered at a local hospital in Columbus, Ohio hoping it would lead to a job. After five months of volunteering, I was finally offered a position as an operating room assistant.

After years of battling depression, I decided to enroll at Columbus State Community College and restart my academic journey. That drive to fight for my future came back stronger than ever, and this time I embraced it! I poured myself into my studies and every semester you could find my name on the Dean's List, which eventually led to an invitation to join Phi Theta Kappa. **Becoming a PTK member was a dream I did not even know I had,** especially as a foreign-born student who had no prior knowledge of the organization. Through PTK, I discovered opportunities that aligned perfectly with my academic goals particularly the undergraduate research.

Even though I grew up in a loving family, my life was not as easy as it might seem from the outside. I lived through a civil war

*Life is a trip - enjoy every step!*

When I look back at my journey, it still feels unbelievable how far I've come and how much I've accomplished. For all of the opportunities PTK has given me, with a strong desire to give back and to use my talents, I am submitting to you, my candidacy for International President of Phi Theta Kappa. I hope to continue inspiring others through my story as we are concluding the exploration of the theme "Power of Stories." I am living proof that change and growth is possible. I moved from trauma, pain, fear, depression, and uncertainty to hope, peace, and purpose, all because I chose to take one step forward and never look back.



*Alpha Rho Epsilon  
Columbus State Community College*

## SCHOLARSHIP

- Glenn H. Williams Fund recipient – 2024
- Honors Program scholarship recipient – 2025, 2026
- Dean's list in 4 consecutive semesters
- Completed PTK Edge
  - Advocacy
  - Competitive
  - Employment
  - Healthcare
  - Leadership
  - Research
  - Transfer

### Memberships:

- Sustainability group
- Social work club
- Mu Alpha Theta Math Honor Society
- American Accounting Association
- Institute of Management Accountants



## FELLOWSHIP

- Honors Institute May 2025
- Ohio regional honors in action conference August 2025
- Ohio regional leadership in action conference October 2025
- 2025 Two-Year Bridge Symposium November 2025
- Participated in all PTK member and officer meetings since becoming an officer



*Being a PTK officer is only part of who I am. As a member of the Columbus State Community College family, I'm fully involved in campus life and dedicated to serving and giving back to my community.*



## SERVICE

- Columbus State Community College Day of service
- PTK and student groups fair
- Volunteer at Connection Pointe church of GOD at Grove City
- College Project and Honor in Action Project
- PTK transfer and scholarship fair
- Volunteer at Mid-Ohio food collective

## LEADERSHIP

- Patient Support Assistant at OhioHealth
- Operating Room Assistant at OhioHealth
- Basic life support certified
- Office specialist
- Languages: fluently speak Lingala, French, English, Kikongo
  - Moderately speak Swahili
  - Novice Greek, Arabic
- Interests and hobbies: Architecture, Interior design, Cooking, Scuba diving, Tennis, Swimming, Music, Travel, Reading, and History

## MORE ABOUT ME

- Phi Theta Kappa: Vice-President of Leadership Alpha Rho Epsilon chapter (also Interim President)
- Business Community Vice-president of Live events
- Columbus State Community College student conduct hearing board
- Global outreach leadership at Connection Pointe church of GOD at Grove City Ohio
- HRO (HeROes) Program representative for Doctors Hospital ER – OhioHealth: promoting safe practices and universal skills in violence de-escalation
- Co-authored a book "Rising above sexual abuse", April 2021