Shawn Whitsell is an actor, producer, playwright, director, filmmaker and spoken word artist. In early 2007, Shawn founded the Destiny Theatre Experience, through which he has produced (and acted in) several productions including *Pretty Fire*, *In Real Life*, *Before It Hits Home*, *Scooter Thomas Makes It To The Top Of The World*, *No Child* and the Pulitzer Prize-winning *Topdog/Underdog.* Shawn has also produced and directed his original plays: *Never Been Home*, *Beyond Loose Ties*, *House of Harts*, *In The Pastor's Shadow*, *Life To Come*, *Stories of Our Lives*, *Dilemmas and Perspectives: Thru the Eyes of Men*. Shawn's additional theatre credits include *The Watsons Go To Birmingham 1963*, *A Raisin in the Sun*, *A Way Out, The D Word*, *The Piano Lesson*, *Dreamgirls*, *Pulpits*, *Fences*, *Cultural Millennium*, *The Bow Wow Club*, *The Sepia Chronicles*, *The Face of Emmett Till, Gospel*, *The 70% Club*, *Black Girl Lost*, *My Soul is a Witness*, *To Kill a Mocking Bird*, *The Laramie Project, I'm Goin' Home*, *Jitney*, *Bud Not Buddy*, *Holes* and more. When he's not performing, Shawn teaches theatre and spoken word in schools in the Nashville area. Shawn recently received a First Night Star Award for his contributions to the arts in the Nashville community.

Voices Program 2014

Welcome	James Bowles Director of Diversity
Introduction of Guest	Silas J. Matchem, Sr. Special Projects – Student Affairs
Music Selection	Roshun Radford Communications Instructor
Poem Reading	Kim Morrow Student Affairs Assistant

Special Student Presentation
Brooke Archila and students From the Major Black Authors course

Special Performances by
Shawn Whitsell

Carter G. Woodson was a coal miner and child of former slaves with enthusiasm for the historical documentation of the African-American experience. He decided as a young man that our stories needed to be recognized. After earning a Ph.D. from Harvard University in history, Carter became a Howard University professor. He then co-founded and financed the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History in 1915, with the lofty goal of having it both publish and fund research and writing projects about black history. After resigning as a professor, Woodson dedicated all of his time to the association, as well as to publishing books and resources about the black experience. One notable quarterly he edited was The Journal of Negro History, which was distributed worldwide.

In 1926, Woodson established Negro History Week, as it was called by the black fraternity Omega Psi Phi, to celebrate the achievements of African-Americans. Woodson chose the second week of February because it marked the birthdays of Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass. Through Woodson's promotion of the celebration in The Journal of Negro History, and by creating and distributing educational kits for children, Negro History Week gained in popularity. In 1976, it evolved into Black History Month.

Source: Henry Louis Gates & Cornel West, 'The African American Century' (Touchstone 2002)

VOICES 2014

Special Thanks:

Dr. Judy Rhoads
Dr. Jay Parrent
John Peters
MCC Cultural Diversity Committee
MCC Multicultural Student Association

Madisonville Community College

19th Annual Voices Program

February 13, 2014

12:15 pm – 1:00 pm

Multipurpose Room
John H. Gray Building / North Campus

Sponsored by:

MCC Office of Diversity Programs

MCC Cultural Diversity Committee