

News from:



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**“World’s Fastest Humanitarian” John Carlos is coming to Topeka on Thursday, February 22;
Former track star made history with his black-fisted salute at the 1968 Olympics**

Topeka, Kan. – The Auburn-Washburn Public Schools Foundation will be hosting one of the legends in using sports fame to advocate for human rights. When John Carlos climbed onto the medal stand after his bronze medal win in the 1968 Mexico City Olympics, he stood in black socks with no shoes and raised a black-gloved fist as a symbol of the fight for human rights.

On Thursday, February 22, Carlos will speak before an audience of high school students invited from all five Shawnee County school districts along with students and faculty from Washburn University. The presentation will start at 10 a.m. on Thursday at Washburn University’s White Concert Hall. Attendance is by invitation only and the media are encouraged to attend. A brief press availability will follow the presentation is the Rita Blitt Art Gallery at approximately 11:30.

Carlos’ appearance in Topeka is made possible, according to the Auburn-Washburn Foundation, through the generous support of Hills Pet Nutrition.

After the Olympics, Carlos – who earned a doctoral degree and worked as a counselor in the Palm Springs (California) High School -- immediately became a focus of world-wide attention. He, along with teammate and gold medal winner Tommie Smith, also faced immediate repercussions as the International Olympic committee ordered them suspended from the U.S. Olympic Team and banned them from the Olympic Village.

Carlos went on to play professional football for the Philadelphia Eagles and later in the Canadian Football League. He also worked for Puma, the U.S. Olympic Committee and the organizing committee for the 1984 Los Angeles Olympic Games.

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John Carlos to appear at Washburn University
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But even though he's now retired, he has never lost sight of his life-long mission to improve human rights conditions and to increase the chances of success for youth.

"From an early age I developed a spirit and the courage to speak on behalf of those that could not or did not want to speak in hopes that something would resonate within those that listened to do the same," Carlos said.

Today, Carlos continues to speak out on behalf of the marginalized and is actively involved with community and global movements. His efforts received national recognition when he was awarded the Arthur Ashe Award for Courage at the 2008 Espy Awards. He continues to speak out in support of humanitarian causes and supports athletes "who are taking a stand in support of a cause that means so much more than money."

"October 16, 1968 will forever have a special place in my heart," Carlos said, "as it is the day I learned how powerful a united voice could be. A united voice, forty-nine years later, that still needs to be channeled through any platform available."