

Fighting for #Justice4Josiah



Son. CSU Student. Leader.

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RADIO FREE CSU

Radio Free CSU host Audrena Redmond talks with Charmaine Lawson, the mother of Humboldt State University student David Josiah Lawson, who was murdered near campus on April 15, 2017. To date, his homicide remains unsolved. In this discussion, Redmond and Charmaine Lawson discuss her son's journey as a student, and the need to better protect students of color in the CSU.

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STRONGER TOGETHER

**SPECIAL EPISODE: A
CONVERSATION WITH CHARMAINE
LAWSON ABOUT #JUSTICE4JOSIAH**



CFA: Fighting for #Justice4Josiah

David Josiah Lawson, 19, was a Humboldt State University sophomore majoring in Criminology & Justice Studies. He was recruited to HSU at a college fair at his high school in southern California. Lawson had dreams of becoming a lawyer.

Lawson was well-liked and a leader, serving as president of the Brothers United, a group that formed as a result of the unsolved murder of a Black HSU student, Corey Clark in 2001. The group's goal was to provide support for Black men in the predominately white institution and white area in which they felt unsupported. Lawson worked in the town of Arcata to help pay for college. He had a strong family network and his family, led by his mother Charmaine Lawson, is working hard to seek resolution and justice in his death, and ensure that Humboldt State and the CSU does more to keep students safe.

Faculty, HSU students, Students for Quality Education, and advocates are trying to increase awareness of the case and help amplify the call for #Justice4Josiah.

Learn more: calfac.org/justice4josiah



David Josiah Lawson, shown here in 2016 with his mother after ice skating, loved the outdoors, which was one of the things that drew him to Humboldt State University.

FACTS ABOUT THE CASE:

David Josiah Lawson, his girlfriend, and other HSU students were at a large house party near campus on April 15, 2017. A young woman said she lost her cell phone and accused Black students of stealing it. Fighting ensued and Lawson's girlfriend was stabbed in the arm, and Lawson was fatally stabbed. Friends say they administered CPR and tried to slow the bleeding while awaiting medical aid. Arcata police responded. Some students at the party reported that Arcata Police focused on crowd control and not helping Lawson until it was too late. Lawson died at a local hospital.

So far, one arrest has been made in the case, but the judge found that there was insufficient evidence to hold and charge the suspect. The investigation continues and Lawson's family, along with the Justice for Josiah Committee, continue to advocate for an arrest.

Humboldt students, Students for Quality Education, faculty, and supporters have been protesting at Arcata city meetings, in town, on campus, and at other CSU campuses since Lawson was killed. The Justice for Josiah Committee says police should rehire a former FBI investigator who had been involved in the initial investigation. Lawson's mother, Charmaine Lawson, has appealed three times to the CSU Board of Trustees. CFA, in support of the Lawson family, is calling for Trustees to use their influence to secure justice for Josiah and ensure that Humboldt State and the CSU does more to keep students safe.

David Josiah Lawson was our student. His life deserves to be honored, and his family deserves justice. The CSU administration can better protect ALL students, especially its students of color in or near communities where hate crimes and violence have been known to occur.

WHAT YOU CAN DO



TAKE ACTION

We are amplifying the Lawson family's call for Attorney General Xavier Becerra to take over the investigation of Josiah's murder. Call the Attorney General's office at (877) 433-9069 or go to oag.ca.gov/victimservices/contact and urge the Attorney General to investigate.



SUPPORT

You can also help support efforts to seek Justice for Josiah by getting involved and/or making a donation. More information can be found at: justiceforjosiahlawson.com and gofundme.com/inhonorofDJ.



LEARN MORE

Read news coverage about the case and share it via email, social media, and among colleagues, students, and friends. Learn more at: calfac.org/justice4josiah/news