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LACCD Board Approves Resolution Honoring Black History Month

Highlights of Special Events, Guest Speakers and Programs at LACCD’s Nine “Colleges of Los Angeles” Also Shared At Board Feb. 2, 2022 Meeting

LOS ANGELES—The Los Angeles Community College District (LACCD) Board of Trustees unanimously approved the following resolution honoring the importance of Black History Month. Highlights of Black History Month celebrations, guest speakers, special events and other activities planned at the District’s nine colleges were also shared at the February 2, 2022 meeting.

More details about Black History Month at the District’s nine “Colleges of Los Angeles” are included in the Chancellor’s Monthly Report for February 2022, posted online. The recording of the Board’s meeting during which the resolution was approved and event information was shared is also posted online.

“This resolution is a reiteration of the need for the LACCD’s commitment to improve life for our Black stakeholders through prioritizing ethnic studies programs, thriving and fully funding Umoja programs, facilitating discussions around critical race theory, diversity in hiring and promotion and especially Black student outreach,” Trustee Nichelle Henderson said at the meeting.

Other helpful links about Black History Month include: the Association for the Study of African American Life and History; President Biden Proclamation; the King Center and the Smithsonian National Museum of African American Culture and History. Be sure to check the colleges’ websites and social media platforms for the latest updates on their events.

The following resolution was presented by the entire LACCD Board of Trustees:

IN RECOGNITION OF BLACK HISTORY MONTH AND ITS SIGNIFICANCE TO LACCD

WHEREAS, The birthdays of President Abraham Lincoln and abolitionist Frederick Douglass inspired the creation of Negro History Week, the precursor to Black History Month; and

WHEREAS, The month of February is officially celebrated as Black History Month, which dates to 1926 when Dr. Carter G. Woodson set aside a special period of time in February to recognize the heritage and achievement of Black/African Americans; and

WHEREAS, 2020 marked the 150th anniversary of the 15th Amendment ratification to the Constitution in 1870 when Black/African-American men first obtained the right to vote following the Civil War; and

WHEREAS, The theme for the 2020 H.RES 869 Recognizing and Celebrating the Significance of Black History Month called out the lessons we have learned from the struggle for voting rights for Black/African-American men and women, and the continued challenges they face in exercising that right; and

WHEREAS, Congress began consideration of the Freedom to Vote Act and the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act to increase voter registration and expand voting access across the country in an effort to curtail voter suppression tactics that most heavily impact Black/African Americans and other minority groups; and

WHEREAS, The efficacy of the legislative filibuster in the US Senate has come into question within the ongoing debate on voting rights in Congress, given the filibuster’s roots in establishing

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Jim Crow laws in southern states that systematically disenfranchised and discriminated against Black/African Americans for almost a century; and

WHEREAS, Black/African Americans in all walks of life have made significant contributions throughout the history of the United States, including through the arts, music, literature, athletics, science, political representation and the military; and

WHEREAS, For over 36 million people of Black/African-American descent, the designation and observation of February as Black History Month represents the nation's acknowledgment of the contributions, significance and continuing role of Black/African-Americans in shaping the culture and history of the United States; and

WHEREAS, Central to the role and history of Black/African-Americans is the acquisition of a thorough and meaningful education, which provides the tools to design, control and determine their own destiny, including economic, educational and political; and

WHEREAS, The Los Angeles Board of Trustees recognizes that the shameful legacy of the intentional structuring of opportunity, implementation of policies and practices, and assignment of value, based solely on skin color and other physical characteristics, has created unfair disadvantages to Black/African Americans and people of color that persist today; and

WHEREAS, The Chancellor and members of his Cabinet have taken the affirmative steps toward eliminating systemic bias and institutional racism by establishing the Framework for Racial Equity and Social Justice to take action in rooting out racism and to internalize anti-racist policies and practices at LACCD; and

WHEREAS, The Framework for Racial Equity and Social Justice speaks to the values of equity, diversity and inclusion at LACCD and directs specific action steps and commitments that enables our colleges and district to set a cultural tone and to actively build anti-racist organizational capacity and resilience, and move toward a more socially and racially-just academic community; and

WHEREAS, The Los Angeles Board of Trustees, in August 2020, passed a Resolution in support of the LACCD Board of Trustees Framework for Racial Equity and Social Justice, which cites the killing of George Floyd on May 25, 2020, by a Minneapolis police officer that sparked global protests and has inspired a multitude of interventions and advocacy to address not only the issue of racialized violence at the hands of law enforcement, but systemic inequities and racist structures that have plagued this nation for centuries; and

WHEREAS, The Framework called upon the Chancellor to establish a Chancellor’s Advisory Committee on Black/African American Student Affairs to provide advice, guidance and expertise to the Chancellor and the Board of Trustees on issues impacting the Black/African American faculty, staff and student community; and

WHEREAS, The "avenue of equal opportunity access to education" has been the basic premise around which the community colleges of California have acquired support and credibility, and current figures and statistics indicate that there are still challenges to sustaining enrollments of Black/African-American students attending educational institutions; and

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WHEREAS, The Chancellor’s Advisory Committee on Black/African American Student Affairs has identified the recruitment, retention and graduation of Black/African American students, and the hiring of full-time faculty and staff as top priorities for the District; and

WHEREAS, Data show that 13 percent of employees at LACCD are of Black/African American decent and the LACCD Board of Trustees recognizes that the District can and must do more to increase representation of Black/African American faculty and staff; and

WHEREAS, Data show that at the Los Angeles Community College District 8 percent of the District student body is comprised of Black/African American students, as compared to the County of Los Angeles population, which is 9 percent Black; and

WHEREAS, The LACCD Board of Trustees encourages the illumination of the rich cultural heritage and ethnic diversity within the greater Los Angeles area as part of the District’s commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion; and

WHEREAS, The LACCD has demonstrated its commitment to support curriculum germane to the study of race, class and equity, administration of justice; and

WHEREAS, The LACCD sponsored Assembly Bill 1040 (Muratsuchi) during the 2021-22 State Legislative cycle to require that all community college students complete at a minimum, one 3 unit ethnic studies course, including Black/African American Studies, as a requirement for graduation; and

WHEREAS, The LACCD Board of Trustees recognized the significance of Juneteenth Independence Day as an important time to celebrate the significant contributions of Black/African Americans to the history and development of the United States, and their rightful status as free citizens and adopted a resolution that recognizes June 19, 2021, as “Juneteenth Independence Day”; and

WHEREAS, LACCD sponsored and secured a 2021 State Budget for $5 million to expand and increase funding for the statewide Umoja Program which is dedicated to enhancing services and the educational experience of Black/African American Students enrolled in the community college system; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Board of Trustees of the Los Angeles Community College District joins with the nation in recognizing and celebrating February as Black History Month by acknowledging the significant and impactful contributions of Black/African Americans to this nation, to our higher education community and to LACCD, and encourages its colleges and student organizations to promote historical and cultural awareness by featuring various programs, exhibits, and other relevant activities and by participating in events sponsored by local communities; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Chancellor distribute a copy of this resolution to all nine campuses to increase awareness about Black History Month. The LACCD colleges include: Los Angeles City College; East Los Angeles College; Los Angeles Harbor College; Los Angeles Mission College; Los Angeles Pierce College; Los Angeles Southwest College; Los Angeles Trade-Technical College; Los Angeles Valley College and West Los Angeles College.

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About the Los Angeles Community College District
We are the Colleges of Los Angeles! LACCD (www.laccd.edu) is the nation’s largest community college district, educating about 250,000 students annually at its nine colleges that serve the residents of more than 36 cities and communities from 900 square miles of Los Angeles County. Since 1969, the District has been providing an important learning pathway for students seeking transfer to four-year colleges or universities while also offering two-year degrees and certificated training programs to Southern California’s diverse workforce in many specialized trades and professions. Follow us on Facebook, https://www.facebook.com/LACCD, @LACCD, and on Twitter, https://twitter.com/laccd @laccd and Instagram, https://www.instagram.com/laccd_edu @laccd_edu.

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Black History Month Highlights at LACCD’s Nine “Colleges of Los Angeles”
All nine colleges have announced plans in celebration of Black History Month. Check the colleges’ websites and social media platforms for more details as more events and activities can be added, or schedules changed. Below are some of the highlights for this year.

City
African American Outreach Initiative:

The LACCD African-American Outreach Initiative invites you to our 2022 Black History Month Celebration on Thursday, February 17, 2022.

RSVP Today at:


The event begins at 3:00 p.m. and features special guest speaker and diversity, equity, and inclusion leader, Dr. Danielle Jenkins.

East L.A. College begins its Black History Month activities on Tuesday, February 15 with a very special event featuring academic and civic leader Melina Abdullah, Ph.D., co-founder of Black Lives Matter Los Angeles Chapter. Other events noted below and online.
Harbor

Join L.A. Harbor College for its special “Read In” program!

VIRTUAL AFRICAN AMERICAN READ-IN

Friday, February 11th, 10 - 11 am

Join us as we read and discuss texts by African American authors and provide space to recognize and amplify their work. Original poems and spoken word are also welcome.

RSVP: bit.ly/READIN2022

Questions? Contact the LAHC Umoja Community at (310) 233-4348 or umoja@l ahc.edu. For more information about the National African American Read-in, visit: https://ncte.org/get-involved/african-american-read-in
Los Angeles Mission College Presents

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

The Legacy Continues...

Watch a panel discussion on critical race theory and mental health needs in the Black community.

Premiering on YouTube: youtube.com/lamissioncollege

Wednesday, Feb. 16
12 p.m.

Request for Accommodation: We encourage people with disabilities to participate in college activities/events. If you anticipate needing any type of accommodation, or have questions about issues of access at the location of the activity/event, please contact the Vice President of Administrative Services at DisabilityAccess@lamission.edu or call 818-394-7700 as soon as possible, but no later than seven business days prior to the event.
Pierce

Los Angeles Pierce College Umoja Program’s Black History Month events included on the districtwide calendar below include:

- Umoja Practices: Grounding Our Practices in Black History - Wednesday, February 16, 1-2 p.m.
- Cocoa, Cookies, and Culture event - Thursday, February 24, 1-2:30 p.m.
- Pierce BFSA/Umoja BHM Luncheon – Friday, February 18 1-2:30 p.m.
- Umoja Community Region 4 Village Voices: A Talk with Chris Emdin - Tuesday, February 22
Southwest

Celebrate Black History Month throughout February! The theme for 2022 focuses on the importance of Black Health and Wellness. Explore the LASC’s Library collection of print and electronic books related to African American Health

Black History Month

Celebrate Black History Month
Browse all print and electronic books by visiting www.lasc.edu/library

Need more information?
Email: lasclibrary@lasc.edu
Text/SMS: 323-241-2989

LASC Library
Discover Learn Succeed

Trade

On Wednesday, February 23, 11 a.m.–1 p.m., LATTC’s Black Faculty & Staff Association (BFSA), in partnership with Umoja and ASO, will host the Annual Black History Luncheon in honor of Black History Month.

The event features special guest speaker, Dr. Jonathan King, a diversity trainer with 15 years of faculty and executive leadership in community colleges, as he relates his family’s personal experiences with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in the 1960s. He will discuss how Dr. King’s legacy of nonviolence helped heal his community, and the importance of wellness as it relates to the Black History Month theme for this year, which focuses on Black Health & Wellness.

A limited number of in-person seats are available for those that want to take part in the luncheon, as well as a virtual tie-in for those that would like to view the presentation remotely. Please contact Jeremy Jackson at jacksojb@lattc.edu for more information.
Valley

Valley’s Umoja has put together a great series of programs to celebrate Black History Month and welcomes all to join for any or all of this year’s activities.

STILL WE RISE

LAVC UMOJA BLACK SCHOLARS CELEBRATES, EDUCATES, AND REMEMBERS

2022 BLACK HISTORY MONTH

FEBRUARY 15, 2022:
BHM CELEBRATION PERFORMANCE
Zulu Acrobat
2p | LAVC & LASC | Zoom

FEBRUARY 17, 2022:
BHM 365 KEYNOTE LECTURE
Tyree Boyd-Knowles
2p | LAVC | Zoom

FEBRUARY 19, 2022:
LA BLACK COLLEGE EXPO
10a | LA Convention Center

FEBRUARY 22, 2022:
BHM DISTINGUISHED KEYNOTE
Dr. Chris Emdin
2p | LACCD Umoja | Zoom

FEBRUARY 23, 2022:
BHM PAINT NIGHT
5p | Region IV Umoja | Zoom

FEBRUARY 25, 2022:
CSUN HARAMEE CONFERENCE
Strengthening The Black Transfer
10a | CSUN | Zoom

FEBRUARY 28, 2022:
BLACK MENTAL HEALTH MATTERS
Workshop & Discussion Panel
2p | LAVC | Zoom

RSVP:

*LAVC encourages persons with disabilities to participate in its programs and activities. If you anticipate needing any type of accommodation, or have questions about the physical access provided, please contact Dr. Elliott Coney at coneye@lavc.edu as soon as possible, but no later than seven (7) business days prior to the event.
For Black History Month, WLAC celebrates some of its alumni who have and are making history in government, business, education, activism and athletics. A different alum will be featured on our home page and social media each week. But you can see them all at once at WLAC.edu/News/Celebration-BHM.aspx

- **Judge Kevin Brazile**: The 1st African American Presiding Judge of the LA County Superior Court
- **Kim Etheredge**: Co-Founder of Mixed Chicks products
- **Nzinga-Christina Reid**: Author & Activist
- **Dr. Linda Rose**: Former President of Santa Ana College and LA Southwest College
- **Football Hall of Famers and Super Bowl Participants**: Warren Moon, Isaac Bruce, Stephen Baker, Keyshawn Johnson and Edell Shepherd.

The page and our social media will also showcase Faculty Reflections on prominent African Americans and organizations in history.