



*Developing Christian Leaders Through
Christ-Centered Education*

BLACK HISTORY MONTH



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

*You must never be fearful about what you are
doing when it is right.*

-Rosa Parks

In 1976, Black History Month was officially recognized in February. This is a time to reflect and be thankful to all those African Americans who have paved the way by showing strength and perseverance.

Our ancestors' fortitude during the difficult and challenging times of our history reflects the resiliency we have as a people. The optimism of believing that things could get better has been the compass to guide change. Overcoming adversity is a true testament to our will.

Black History isn't just about acknowledging the challenges and struggles that we as a people have been through. The adversity that we have faced has created the character and determination to be leaders.

Take this moment to celebrate the tremendous changes we have experienced. As George Santayana said, "*those who do not remember the past are condemned to repeat it.*"

Benson Karanja

Black History Month is an annual celebration of the abundant contribution African Americans have made along with the recognition of the pivotal role played in U.S. history.

The origins of Black History Month being in 1915, 50 years after the abolishment of slavery in the United States. Harvard historian, Carter G. Woodson and minister Jesse E. Moorland founded the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History (ASNLH). This organization focused on dedicated to research and promoting the achievements of Black Americans and those of African descent. Initially set for the second week of February was chosen to coincide with the birthdays of Abraham Lincoln and Fredrick Douglass.

In the decades to follow, thanks to the Civil Rights Movement and the growing awareness of Black identity, the week evolved into Black History Month on many historically Black colleges and universities (HBCU) campuses.

In 1976, President Gerald Ford officially recognized the month by calling to the public to "seize the opportunity to honor the too often neglected accomplishments of Black Americans in every area of endeavor throughout our history."

Other countries around the world such as Canada and the United Kingdom have devoted a month to celebrating the excellence of African Americans.



“Each time a woman stands up for herself, without knowing it possibly, without claiming it, she stands up for all women.” –Maya Angelou

March is known as National Women’s History Month. But why March? The history behind this decision begin in the 1970s when local groups began celebrating Women’s History Week. According to the National Women’s History Museum, the most notable celebrations of the accomplishments of women was organized in Santa Rosa, California by the Education Task Force of the Sonoma County Commission on the Status of Women. This movement became so popular that people began lobbying for an official observance.

In 1980, President Jimmy Carter designated the first official National Women’s History Week on March 8th of that year. By 1986, states began declaring the whole month of March and by 1987 Congress declared it as the first official month for women’s history.

BHU is proud of its diversity and more importantly, we pay homage to every woman that has impacted the institution from our Board of Trustees, faculty, adjunct faculty and administrative staff.

Alicia Plant
Anyango Gregory
Chere Brown
D’Ann Johnson
Domitila Bicudo
Jacquelyn Armstrong
Jewel Randolph
Juandolyn Stokes
Marguerite Faulk
Nara Yun
Priscilla Tennant
Sandra Hawthorne
Sheena Adams
Teresa Harvey

Anissa Blair
Betty McBride
Christiany Branquinho
Darlene Small
Georgia Skinner
Jan Edwards-Webster
Johnecia Mason
Kathryn Miles-Dula
Merium Leverett
Patricia Staton
Sabrina Toney
Sandra Tyler
Sheila Thomas
Tiphannie Ivey

Anita Green
Charlene Duncan
Cynthia Hale
Divine Zumbi
Gina Garlington
Jasmine Douglas
Josiane Carolino
Mae Reggy
Myra Bolton
Peggy Jones
Salome Mbugua
Sharica Thomas
Sonya Okoli
Ukemah Cody

COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY

COFFEE & CONVERSATIONS



Led by Dr. Rodney Jackson, Academic Dean and Dr. Sonya Okoli, Asst. Prof. of Leadership & Program Coordinator PhD, represent the Department of Leadership.

Coffee & Conversations is a time to engage in a casual virtual coffee shop like conversation with students.

Here we provide updates, tools/resources to deepen the connection and communication with graduate students.

- Safe place to share YOUR ideas to improve the BHU grad student experience.
- Opportunity to engage with academic representatives and faculty.
- Time to relax & collaborate with peers.

Please join us via Zoom the last Friday of every month at 8am.

We need to hear from you!



“Even if we can’t meet in person, I will do everything in my power to make sure you are honored.” BHU President Benson Karanja said at the town hall meeting held on March 22nd.

The university researched a range of indoor and outdoor scenarios, with or without guests or a modified traditional ceremony. Repeatedly the Graduation Committee ran into obstacles that we couldn’t resolve. The facility that so graciously hosts our commencement ceremony every year will be unable to accommodate BHU due to restrictions related to COVID-19.

With the slow rollout of vaccines, the emergence of new variants, the leadership team at BHU has considered all options, and the tough decision was made to host a virtual ceremony.

For the Class of 2020 and 2021, we celebrate with you all your hard work and accomplishments. Please check your student emails and be on the lookout for upcoming details. In order for this ceremony to be a success, it involves your full participation.

Previous graduates for the Class of 2020 and Class of 2021 will have the option to join the commencement ceremony with the Class of 2022 at no cost.

Congratulations! The faculty and staff here at the institution look forward to honoring you on May 8, 2021, at 11 am.



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CARES GRANT & SCHOLARSHIPS

Beulah Heights University is here to provide financial support through these uncertain times. The institution has received additional funds from the CARES Act provided by the federal government. Please submit your application via Beulah.edu/CARES. Funds will be disbursed to students by April 15, 2021.

Unfortunately as mandated by the government, this financial assistance is for US domestic students only.

BHU continues to come up with creative ways to assist international students as well. Institutional scholarship opportunities are available to all students at Beulah.edu/scholarships.

Please note that scholarships are awarded on need and the availability of institutional funds.

