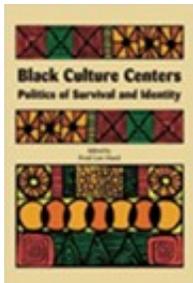




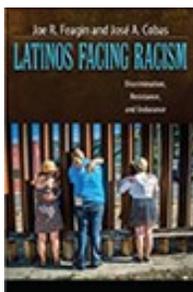
## Book Power

Recent releases in literature, history and culture.



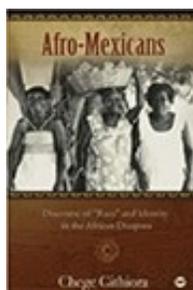
### Black Culture Centers: Politics of Survival and Identity

Edited By Fred L. Hord  
Third World Press



### Latinos Facing Racism: Discrimination, Resistance, and Endurance

By Joe R. Feagin and José A. Cobas  
Routledge



### Afro-Mexicans: Discourse of Race and Identity in the African Diaspora

By Chege Githiora  
Africa Research & Publications

More books on page 2

## Student Activism Victory: A New Multicultural Center for the University of Michigan

By Jessica Thompson  
Program Manager, Trotter Multicultural Center  
University of Michigan

Started in the early 1970s, the William Monroe Trotter House served as a sanctuary for Black students at the University of Michigan, a predominantly White institution. Students pushed for spaces that were welcoming and built with them and their presence in mind. Students fought for a campus that was more aware of their existence, especially a university that created spaces for them to thrive and to express themselves in; hence, the creation of the William Monroe Trotter House. Now referred to as William Monroe Trotter Multicultural

Center (TMC), named after African-American civil rights activist William Monroe Trotter, it is recognized as the product of student resilience and activism at the University of Michigan. *Continued on page 7...*



## Peer Mentoring Program Provides Social, Cultural and Academic Support at Northern Illinois University

The Northern Illinois University Latino Resource Center's peer mentoring program has wrapped up its semester. The program assists Latino first year students in their transition and adjustment to college life by providing social, cultural and academic support through the help of a mentor. Approximately 30 mentors and mentees were accepted into the peer mentoring program this fall. Mentees were paired up with a mentor based on major, hobbies and interests.

"My favorite thing is seeing the

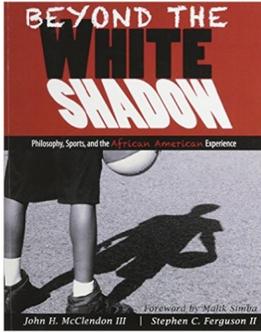
relationships that are built between mentee and mentor because I know that mentors will continue to serve as a resource to them," said Felix Castillo, student program coordinator.

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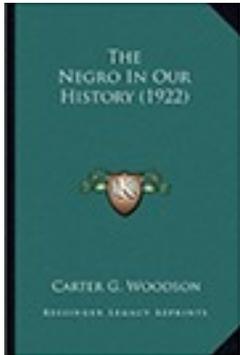
## Book Review: Democracy in Black

By Dr. Fred Hord  
ABCC Founder/Executive Director



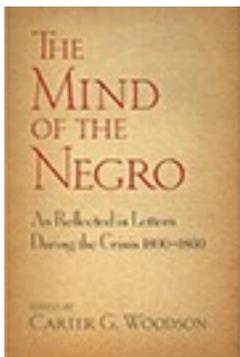
### **Beyond the White Shadow: Philosophy, Sports, and the African American Experience**

By John H. McClendon and  
Stephen C. Ferguson  
Kendall Hunt Publishing



### **The Negro in Our History (1922)**

By Carter G. Woodson  
Kessinger Publishing, LLC



### **The Mind of the Negro As Reflected in Letters During the Crisis 1800-1860**

Edited by Carter G. Woodson  
Dover Publications

The subtitle of Eddie S. Glaude Jr.'s recent book, *Democracy in Black*, "How Race Still Enslaves the American Soul," provides a framework for the central concepts of the work: "value gap" and racial habits. "He describes the value gap as "the belief that white people are valued more than others "and racial habits as "the things we can do, without thinking, that sustain the value gap." Glaude argues that "the value gap is in our national DNA," and that the only answer may be "a revolution of value and a radical democratic awakening."

Glaude makes the case that the inferior status of Black America was justified by many myths about them; "they were incapable of civilization, prone to crime, lacking in intelligence, generally lazy, and sexually promiscuous." "Even with respect to ideas about poverty in America, one sees a clean shift from the view of the deserving poor in the 1930s when relief programs were benefitting Whites in large measure to the 1970s and beyond when the image was that undeserving Blacks and other people of color were the primary benefactors.

Glaude also notes that the value gap is rooted in and sustained by "our national refusal to remember." He says that "what we choose to forget often reveals the limits of justice in our collective imaginations." Why is it, the author would submit, that so often, our memory is ahistorical and/or is the product of listening to someone else telling the history. Certainly, Black memory must be reconstructed, as well as the American memory of Blacks.

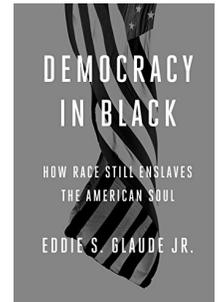
And the racial habits of all Americans proceed in large measure from the value gap. Glaude's view is that "racial habits are the ways we live the belief that white people are valued more than others." He adds they "are formed by the outcomes we see in the

world rather than by the complex process that produced those outcomes."

Glaude contends that "to see how racial habits hold sway we need to look no further than our lack of national will to address the persistence of racial inequality." Employing the words of Dr. Martin L. King Jr., Glaude suggests how equality is presumed: "Most Whites in America ... proceed from a promise that equality is a loose expression for improvement." King believed that Whites thought of equality as improvement defined by them, and they were "not even psychologically organized to close the gap."

This author believes Glaude's insights into the value gap and racial habits are critical for ethnic specific Culture Centers to consider when developing philosophies that underpin them. Black Culture Centers must have programs, resources and scholarship -- including that of center staff and ethnic studies faculty, which clearly speaks to the history and current manifestations of the value gap and racial habits. Second, Black Culture Centers must work closely with Latino, Asian American and Native American Centers, so that clients of all Centers can understand how those two phenomena impact potential synergy, as well as each other separately.

Glaude avers that, "collective forgetting is crucial in determining the kind of story we tell ourselves." In this author's work he has given a lot of attention to the need for African Americans to "reconstruct memory." Other ethnic groups need to focus on this as well, writing their own histories and learning the history of each campus ethnic group represented by a Center.



# Critical Historical Identity: Countering the Crisis of Disenfranchisement in the Literacy Curriculum

By Mellissa Gyimah and Shawndra Allen  
University of Illinois at Chicago

*Editor's Note: This article originally appeared in The Black History Bulletin, Volume 79, No. 2. Edited and used with permission.*

**C**risis in the educational achievement of Black youth, and more specifically, Black males, is embedded within the curriculum, pedagogical knowledge, and learning experiences in schools. Black males have been systematically disenfranchised. Considerably more attention is devoted to “whiteness” in the curriculum underpinning both new social identities and important aspects of education and educational policy.<sup>1</sup> Disenfranchisement and marginalization adversely impact students’ motivation, identity, and academic, social and emotional development.<sup>2</sup> To address the crisis of marginalization and disenfranchisement, we present two critical questions:

1. How can in-school literacy influence the developing identities of Black male youth?
2. What approaches can teachers take to create meaningful literacy experiences?

In this article, we discuss curricula, pedagogical knowledge, and learning experiences as three important aspects for nurturing a critical historical identity via texts for Black male youth. We take the position that Black history should be taught as part of the core curriculum with a focus on critical literacy and critical analysis. Teaching texts focused on the literate identities of Black males benefits these young males.<sup>3</sup>

## Positioning History and Identity in Curriculum

We argue that teachers must use their content and pedagogical knowledge to select and expose youth to multiple-perspective texts, as well as using critical literacy tools to engage students in analyzing their history in relation to their multiple identities and current realities.<sup>4</sup> Currently, history curricula are often narrow in scope.<sup>5</sup>

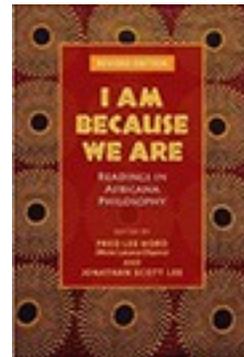
Multiple scholars speak of identities not only as represented, but also as constructed in and through the stories people tell about themselves and their experiences.<sup>6</sup> Constructing cultural and historical identities of Black males is suppressed and compromised when Black history stories are foreclosed within American history.<sup>7</sup>

Davies and Harré define positioning as “the discursive process whereby people are located in conversations as observably and subjectively coherent participants in jointly produced story-lines” and also speak about how “conceptions people have about themselves are disjointed until and unless they are located in a story.”<sup>8</sup> Thus, texts have the potential to position Black males within the storylines of history.

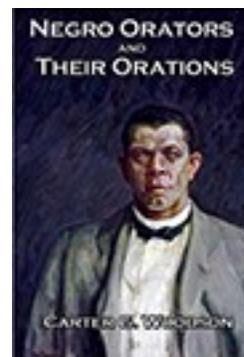
## Pedagogical Knowledge: Recasting Identity via Critical Literacy Approaches

We believe that incorporating variegated Black American history texts into school curricula will lead to stronger literate identities among Black males while also providing a more well-rounded understanding of America and its significant yet unheard voices.

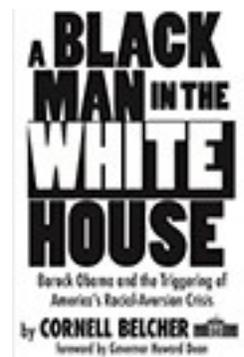
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**I Am Because We Are: Readings in Africana Philosophy (2nd edition)**  
Edited By Fred Lee Hord and Jonathan Scott Lee  
University of Massachusetts Press

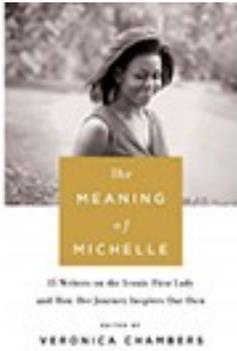


**Negro Orators and Their Orations**  
Edited By Carter G. Woodson  
Wilder Publications



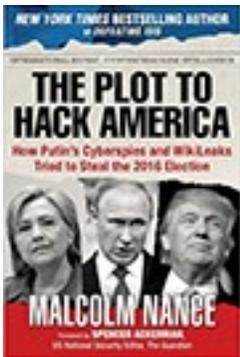
**A Black Man in the White House: Barack Obama and the Triggering of America's Racial-Aversion Crisis**  
By Cornell Belcher  
Water Street Press

*More books on page 4*



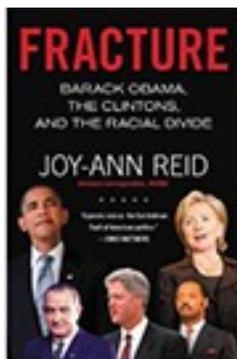
**The Meaning of Michelle: 16 Writers on the Iconic First Lady and How Her Journey Inspires Our Own**

Edited by Veronica Chambers  
St. Martin's Press



**The Plot to Hack America: How Putin's Cyberspies and WikiLeaks Tried to Steal the 2016 Election**

By Malcolm Nance  
Skyhorse Publishing



**Fracture: Barack Obama, the Clintons, and the Racial Divide**

By Joy-Ann Reid  
William Morrow Paperbacks

More books on page 5

**Peer Mentoring Program Provides Social, Cultural and Academic Support at Northern Illinois University...Continued from page 1**

Throughout the semester, program participants were involved in educational workshops, team-building activities, financial literacy presentations and community service. As a community service site, the group decided to volunteer and host a potluck for the elderly at Barb City Manor Retirement Community in DeKalb. Some of the mentors and mentees brought traditional dishes, played board games and offered Latin dance lessons to the retirees.

The program ended with a celebration and recognition ceremony hosted at the Newman Catholic Student Center. Guest speaker, Tanya Cabrera, an NIU alumna, discussed the importance of leadership, mentorship and giving

back to the community. Mentors and mentees were also given the opportunity to write down a few words about their mentorship experience and had them read out loud by the hosts. "It is important for both mentors and mentees to recognize the positive impact that they had on each other and to continue to support one another throughout their educational journey," said Angélica Mendoza, assistant director of the LRC.

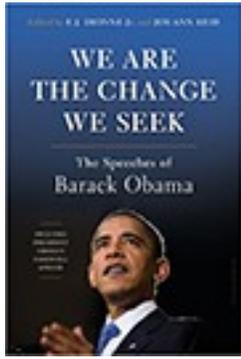
The LRC peer mentoring program will be extended for an academic year and will be renamed Mentoring and Engaging Thru Academic Success (METAS). The program will begin recruiting for mentors in the spring.



**Job Postings on ABCC.net**

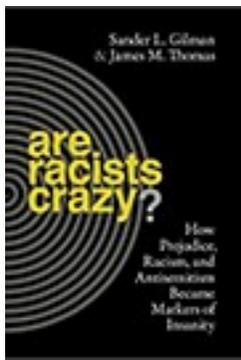
Spread the word about your job opening to candidates across the country. ABCC institutional members receive free job postings on the ABCC website at [www.abcc.net/careers](http://www.abcc.net/careers). We welcome job openings from any department on your campus.





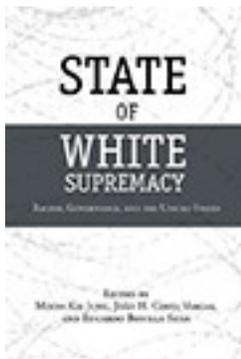
**We Are the Change We Seek: The Speeches of Barack Obama**

Edited by E.J. Dionne Jr. and Joy-Ann Reid  
Bloomsbury USA



**Are Racists Crazy?: How Prejudice, Racism, and Antisemitism Became Markers of Insanity**

By Sander L. Gilman and James M. Thomas  
NYU Press



**State of White Supremacy: Racism, Governance, and the United States**

Edited by Moon-Kie Jung, João Costa Vargas and Eduardo Bonilla-Silva  
Stanford University Press

## A Night to Remember, A Legacy to Uphold

By Dr. Mark Villacorta  
Associate Director, Ledonia Wright Cultural Center  
East Carolina University

On Thursday, October 6, 2016, East Carolina University (ECU) hosted an historic evening commemorating one of its most cherished institutions: The Ledonia Wright Cultural Center (LWCC)! The event was held in conjunction with the 40th anniversary of the LWCC, which has been a focal point for community, diversity, and justice since its inception.

Throughout the years the LWCC has simultaneously been a gathering place for diverse communities and a vanguard for diversity education on campus. The Center began from the demands from the Society of United Liberal Students (SOULS), which would eventually become the Black Student Union. SOULS served as a mechanism for creating community and empowering Black students, staff, and faculty at ECU. In 1974, Prof. Ledonia S. Wright, one of the few Black faculty

members on campus, led the initiative to establish the Afro-American Cultural Center in 1975, which became an immediate hub of Black life at ECU. When Prof. Wright passed away in 1976, her legacy created an indelible mark at ECU, which will be marked in the opening of a new LWCC in the new student center, both set to open in Spring 2018.

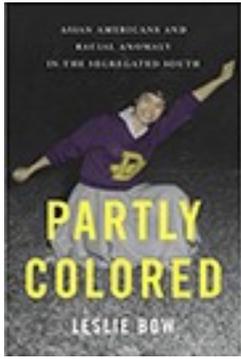
The commemoration included many poignant moments, simultaneously meaningful, powerful, inspiring, and intimate. The evening opened with a rousing performance by Word of Mouth, ECU's spoken word and performance arts collective, followed by Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs, Dr. Virginia Hardy, who gave a wonderful overview of the history of the LWCC and spoke about its future directions and ambitions.

*Continued on page 6...*



Ledonia Wright Cultural Center staff with Angela Davis, left to right: Dr. Mark Villacorta, Nichole Currie, Emeka Ikeakanam, Skye Ordonez, Sister Angela Davis, Ashley Smith, Wanda Tyler, Gabriela Lemus, Shabree Bost, Maurice Carter.

*More books on page 6*



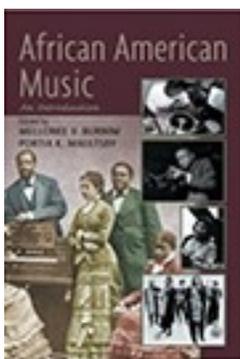
**Partly Colored: Asian Americans and Racial Anomaly in the Segregated South**

By Leslie Bow  
NYU Press



**Representing Black Music Culture: Then, Now, and When Again?**

By William C. Banfield  
Scarecrow Press



**African American Music: An Introduction**

Edited by Mellonee V. Burnim  
and Portia K. Maultsby  
Routledge

**A Night to Remember, A Legacy to Uphold...Continued from page 5**

By Dr. Mark Villacorta

Prof. Wright's son, Boston-based lawyer, Mr. Steven Wright, shared a powerful reflection about his mother and the importance of the Center's work. He, alongside alumni and longstanding LWCC advocates, Mr. Ray Rogers and Dr. Julius Mallette, were honored that evening for their contributions over the years, as was Dr. Hardy for her support of the Center and her unwavering commitment to diversity. Finally, current and former LWCC staff were honored for building the Center's legacy over the decades.

The keynote address was delivered by none other than Sister Angela Davis. College students across the country have taken to the streets to protest longstanding exclusionary practices and cultures at their institutions. This speaker was intended to help students witness what a life committed to justice and community empowerment could look like, particularly from someone who was not very unlike themselves when she first came into national prominence.

Dr. Davis spoke about the importance of sustained movement

building in order to transform society. She gave a personal history of her activism dating back to the early 1970s, including her nationally televised trial and campaign for her freedom, and her eventual acquittal. She spoke about the role of art in sustaining and inspiring movements for change by helping us to imagine a different world together. She reminded us that we cannot be free alone and that we must free others, especially those who are different from us. Emphasizing humility, she advised us to learn from everyone, including and especially those who have not had the same opportunities as we have had. Finally, she called on us to develop a different sense of time as we work to change our institutions, as systemic change will take generations, and we will not be here to see the outcome.

Finally, students, faculty, staff, and community members were treated to an opportunity to meet Sister Davis at a reception following the program. We are grateful to all of the people who have made the LWCC what it is today, and we look forward to what the next 40 years will bring!

**ABCC Afro-Latino Initiative**

Building connections among ethnic groups through culture centers at colleges and universities is central to our mission. Latinos, Asian Americans and Native Americans have historical and contemporary connections with African people. All institutions that become ABCC institutional members for the 2016-2017 fiscal year will get access to our searchable, expanding catalog of almost 200 books on Blacks in Latin America, including Brazil, Cuba and Mexico, as well as Blacks and Latinos in the U.S.

Visit [www.abcc.net/afro-latino-initiative](http://www.abcc.net/afro-latino-initiative) for details.

## **Student Activism Victory: A New Multicultural Center for the University of Michigan...Continued from page 1**

By Jessica Thompson

Over the years, TMC has continuously and consistently operated as a brave space for marginalized students, especially students of color. Presently, as a multicultural center, TMC continues to provide community support and a home away from home.

In 2013, with that same spirit in mind, students questioned why such an important aspect of the university was housed in a space that was located and removed from the central campus, with the building being left in poor conditions. It was not until 2014, during the student activist twitter campaign #BBUM (Being Black at University of Michigan), where the Black Student Union (BSU) released demands that included moving the Trotter Multicultural Center to a central location, resulting in gaining more traction amongst both students and administration. In the summer of 2016, the project "A New Trotter" became "Trotter On State Street," to maintain the history and significance of the Trotter Multicultural Center. That fall, the schematic design of "Trotter On State Street" was introduced to the community. "Trotter On State Street," which will be located on the main street of central campus, State Street, included student cooperation and influence every step of the way as it related to the planning and placement of the new building and location. This type of student-centered and student involved culture embodied not only those who work within TMC currently, but also the entire Multicultural Center itself.

With TMC moving to State Street, it will continue its commitment to students through its principles of engagement, which include Compassion, Affirmation, Reflection, Educate, and Support (#TrotterCARES). Along with the new location, TMC will bring its staple programming, which includes the Annual W.M. Trotter Lecture Series, Paint No Pour, Soul Food Sunday, and 72 Hour Study Break. Every February of the academic year, TMC hosts its annual

W.M. Trotter Lecture Series that provides a space for the unique narratives of our student body to be showcased, which is followed by a keynote speaker who inspires participants to live into their truth. This year we will be honoring and celebrating the narratives of the Black male athlete as well as U of M's Fab 5 for their 25th anniversary, with Ray Jackson as our keynote speaker.

The program, Paint No Pour, occurs every third Thursday of the month, which is a spin-off of facilitated painting experiences with spirits minus the spirits! It is inspired by heritage months, and participants are provided canvasses, art supplies, and a fabulous facilitator to unwind and explore their creative sides, all for free. During that same week, Soul Food Sunday is dedicated to honoring the history and traditions of soul food, dating back centuries within the African diaspora. It is a time for students, faculty and staff of all identities to come together in recognition and celebration of the African people and African American culture, and its tradition of Sunday gatherings at the home of the family matriarch. Through bread breaking, music, dance and conversation, the program shines a light on the humble and welcoming love among the Black community. During final exams TMC shows up by providing free tutoring, Therapaws, massages, all day movies and free brunch and dinner for 72 hours during its 72 Hour Study Break program. The program affords students the opportunity to study and/or just hang out while taking a break from studying in a relaxing and welcoming space.

Trotter On State Street aspires to exemplify the student activism that produced its existence by providing its traditional staple programming, uplifting the memory of William Monroe Trotter's activism, collaborating with its neighbors and living into its tradition of being a home away from home!

### **New Black Cultural Center to Open at UW-Madison**

A new Black Cultural Center at UW-Madison will open in May. The Center will be housed in the university's Red Gym and include a classroom and lounge. Work is underway to design an entryway, improve acoustics and make staffing arrangements. Similar to the university's Multicultural Student Center, the BCC will host classes, discussions and community events. The university hosted a dedication and libation ceremony in February to celebrate the opening of the BCC later this spring. As the ABCC learns more about the BCC, we'll have additional details in the spring edition of the Nommo newsletter.

# Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture Named National Historic Landmark

*Editor's Note: Reprinted from <https://www.nypl.org/press/press-release/january-11-2017/schomburg-center-research-black-culture-named-national-historic>*

The National Park Service (NPS) announced in January the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture as one of 24 new National Historic Landmarks.

According to the NPS press release announcing the designations, the National Historic Landmarks Program recognizes historic properties of exceptional value to the nation, and promotes the preservation efforts of federal, state, and local agencies and Native American tribes, as well as those of private organizations and individuals.

"We are so very proud of this extraordinary recognition of my great-grandfather's vision. I had the honor of joining Dr. Khalil Gibran Muhammad, former Director of the Schomburg Center, when he presented to the National Historic Landmarks Committee, and it voted unanimously in support of the Schomburg Center," said Aysha E. Schomburg, great-granddaughter of Arturo Alfonso Schomburg. "On behalf of my family, we would like

to thank the Obama administration, Secretary Jewell, and the members of Committee for this monumental designation of the Schomburg Center as a national treasure."

"The Schomburg Center's being named a National Historic Landmark is a great honor that comes nearly 92

years to the day we opened as a collection to the public in 1925, and as we prepare to reopen our landmark building this spring," said Kevin Young, Director of the Schomburg Center. "We are delighted at this recognition of Arturo Schomburg's vision to have the world of black culture preserved and made accessible for study and thoughtful contemplation. This honor will ensure future generations' awareness of and access to the Schomburg and its many treasures for centuries to come."



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# Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture Named National Historic

Landmark...Continued from page 8

“The Schomburg Center's naming as a Historic Landmark underscores Arturo Schomburg's commitment to preserving black history and advancing knowledge of black culture in America and worldwide,” said Tony Marx, President and CEO of the New York Public Library. “It also reflects NYPL’s promise to provide free, public access to the stories and resources that capture the global perspective of our community, right here in New

York City. This is a tremendous honor for NYPL and for our community. The Schomburg is a world-class institution, and is truly an example of what a 21st century research library can be.”

Properties designated as National Historic Landmarks are listed in the National Register of Historic Places and receive assistance and support for their preservation and programming efforts.

## Member Testimonial



The Association for Black Culture Centers (ABCC) provides an opportunity for me to connect with colleagues from across the country who are devoted to the success of students of color in higher education. As a result of my participation, I have been able to share ideas, ask questions and benchmark with other cultural center professionals.

ABCC has enabled me to position myself as an expert in the field and be a resource to others. ABCC has been an invaluable resource for the Purdue Black Cultural Center. We have developed exemplary programs utilizing the ABCC Speakers Bureau, successfully recruited professional staff members via the job bank and published articles in the ABCC newsletter on a consistent basis.

Renee A. Thomas, Director  
Purdue University Black Cultural Center



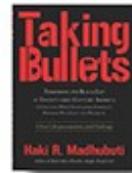
## Third World Press Foundation Books New and Classic Titles



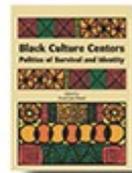
Black Hollywood Unchained



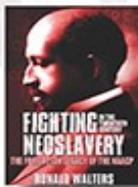
Emmett Till in Different States



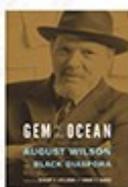
Taking Bullets



Black Culture Centers



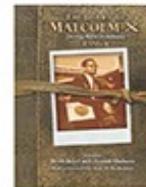
Fighting NeoSlavery



Gem of the Ocean



Brilliant Flame



The Diary of Malcolm X

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# Critical Historical Identity: Countering the Crisis of Disenfranchisement in the Literacy Curriculum...Continued from page 3

By Mellissa Gyimah and Shawndra Allen

Here, critical literacy is important as an approach because it shifts the reader's role from text decoder, text user, and text meaning maker to text critic.<sup>9</sup> The critical stance repositions students as active readers of texts that are subjectively embedded with issues of social marginalization, language construction, and privileged versus silenced voices.

Critical literacy is not easy to define. However, its central tenets speak to the identity and literacy development of young readers and the critical pedagogical practices of teachers who use text and media within classroom spaces. Critical literacy [provides] a lens to see beyond the familiar and the comfortable.<sup>10</sup> Critical literacy is an imperative pedagogical tool for critically engaging with texts in social studies and history classrooms.

Several frameworks have been developed and used to facilitate critical pedagogical strategies in literacy classrooms. Flint, Sluys, and Lewison developed a multidimensional framework that

includes four dimensions of critical literacy: (1) disrupting the commonplace, (2) interrogating multiple perspectives, (3) focusing on sociopolitical issues, and (4) taking action to promote social justice.<sup>11</sup>

## Conclusion

In our brief discussion, we assert that there is a need for more Black American history content and instruction in order to construct and affirm Black males' multiple identities and levels of engagement with Black history. Students' literacy, engagement, and identity are all intertwined. How students are able or unable to locate themselves in text and history can impact them and their sense of identity.<sup>12</sup> It is important that [there] "...is a resource through which speakers and hearers can negotiate new positions."<sup>13</sup>

This repositioning by teacher and students will allow for a more complex and rich interaction with texts.<sup>14</sup>

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# Northeastern, NAACP President Consider 'What would Dr. King do now?'

By Molly Callahan

*Editor's Note: Reprinted from News@Northeastern January 20, 2017.*

**A**s part of Northeastern's week-long celebration of the life and legacy of Martin Luther King Jr., the university hosted prominent city and community leaders on Thursday to discuss civil rights issues facing America today and in the future.

Cornell William Brooks, president and CEO of the NAACP, and Tanisha M. Sullivan, president of the NAACP's Boston chapter, joined students, faculty, and staff in the Curry Student Center Ballroom to examine the question, 'What would Dr. King do now?'

Richard O'Bryant-director of the John D. O'Bryant African American Institute, which co-sponsored the event with the Civil Rights and Restorative Justice Project-opened the discussion by compelling attendees to "keep asking ourselves the question, 'What would Dr. King do now?'

"You have to think about what you can do in your small area of responsibility to make a difference," he said. "It's important for us to take a stand now for what we believe in."

Brooks echoed that sentiment, saying, "We find ourselves in this Curry Center at a peculiar and

particular moment in American history, at the crossroads of tumult and triumph, of crisis and chaos.

"It is a moment in American history where so many feel a deep sense of being anxious and fearful about what is to come. It is a moment in our democracy where we see across the length and breadth of our republic a millennial generation of activists who, with their minds, their hearts, and bodies are yet declaring with conscience and conviction in the words of William Shakespeare, 'Now is the winter of our discontent.'



*President and CEO of the NAACP Cornell William Brooks was the keynote speaker of an event honoring Martin Luther King Jr. in the Curry Student Center Ballroom on Thursday. Photo by Adam Glanzman/Northeastern University*

*Continued on page 12...*

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## Northeastern, NAACP President Consider 'What would Dr. King do now?...Continued from page 11

By Molly Callahan

Speaking passionately, Brooks urged attendees to hold closely three tenants of King's scholarship—that people have intrinsic value; that we are interdependent; and that there is a moral order to the universe in working to continue the civil rights work King took up more than 50 years ago.

Brooks referenced a Navy veteran named Middle Passage who died marching with the NAACP from Selma, Alabama, to Washington, D.C., in 2015. "Middle did not give his life in vain; Martin Luther King did not give his life in vain; Rosa Parks did not sacrifice her life in vain; you are not giving your lives to justice in vain; there is a moral order to the universe, and you can, with God, create justice, create peace, and make a better world, and a better democracy and a better country for us with his or her help. You have that power."

Other speakers echoed Brooks, calling for vigilance and action.

Tara Dunn and Ariel Goeun Kong, both L'17, discussed their work through the Civil Rights and Restorative Justice Project to resolve decades-old racially-motivated homicide cold cases. Dunn told the story of meeting a family of the victim in a case from the 1940s, particularly noting that the family hadn't been able to speak to anyone about the case in the 70 years prior.

"Our duty as a younger generation is to ensure that the suffering of these families is not swept aside," she said. "Stop waiting for others to be that change; be that catalyst that this generation has been waiting for."

Later, Fatuma Mohamed, SSH'20, recited a por-

tion of King's 1964 Nobel Peace Prize acceptance speech, and Robert Jose, associate dean of Cultural, Residential, and Spiritual Life, urged those in attendance to "think deeply about how we can move forward in a productive way together."

Melvin J. Kelley IV, the Elizabeth Ann Zitrin Teaching Fellow, emphasized the importance of the work being done by the Civil Rights and Restorative Justice Project. He noted that its archive of racially-motivated homicides—which, once completed, will be the most comprehensive such archive in the country—includes King.

"Which is really quite fitting," Kelley said, "because his life and legacy fuel our efforts."



Law students Ariel Goeun Kong, left, and Tara Dunn spoke at an event honoring Martin Luther King Jr. Photo by Adam Glanzman/Northeastern University

### ABCC Nommo Newsletter Submissions

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- News from your Culture Center or related office
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- Book reviews
- Research
- Faculty, staff and student achievements
- News about your Culture Center or related office's connections to the larger community

Articles should be between 400-600 words and include a photo, if available.

Visit [www.abcc.net/newsletter-submission](http://www.abcc.net/newsletter-submission)

# Knox College MLK Convocation 2017: Fighting for Future Equality

By Elise Goitia '18  
Knox College

**K**nox College celebrated Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day with an annual convocation featuring music, speeches, and poetry that not only spoke of King's great achievements, but also called for action.

Convocation opened with the Knox College Choir and Friends singing *Woke Up This Mornin'*, directed by professor of music Laura Lane. President of Knox College, Teresa Amott, then took the podium, welcoming students, prospective students, faculty, and the Galesburg community. Amott described the great significance of Dr. King's actions through the Civil Rights Movement and the importance of action today.

Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dean of the College, Laura Behling, continued the theme, saying, "All of us born too late after Dr. Martin Luther King's Civil Rights Movement were born in time for our own. The great glory of a world of democracy is waiting for us to achieve it."

This year's Convocation speeches were both a remembrance of the sacrifices King made and a universal call to become part of a non-partisan movement toward peace in the face of racism, sexism, homophobia, and bigotry.

"The Civil Rights movement isn't about voting for the right president," said Burkhardt Distinguished Associate Professor of History Konrad Hamilton, whose speech was titled "A Path Forward During Dark Times: Reflections on the Legacy of Martin Luther King Jr."

"It's about the sustained collective act of people doing the right thing. Whether we take to the streets or take to Twitter, we should exercise *agape*, the highest form of love, toward equal rights."

"I believe most Americans strive to live by what

Dr. King stood for: fairness, justice, compassion in dealing with others," he added. "Actions speak louder than words, however you voted. What actions are you going to take to express who you really are?"

Visiting professor of Africana Studies, Kwame Zulu Shabazz, gave a speech titled "Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., the Black Death, and the Myth of the Black Superhero." He described crimes against the black community during the fight for equal rights and what must be done to end the violence.

"The structures of our democracy, the police, the education system—this is where our struggle to change will be," he commented.

"Justice is something that we need to work towards, but many of us have not known," Shabazz added. "You have to do real work to change things the way they are today. Create transformative change, not just for us, but for the world."

Convocation ended with the reading of poems by Parker Adams '17 and Maria Francesca Downs '19. Adams read an original work and a poem by Danez Smith. Downs read works by T.J. Jarrett and Mahogany Browne.



ABCC Illinois state coordinator and Knox College visiting professor of Africana studies, Kwame Zulu Shabazz, speaks at the college's MLK convocation.

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# Making a Difference: UWG Leader Recognized as Grand Marshal in MLK Parade

By Emily Wurst

*Editor's Note: Reprinted from <https://www.westga.edu/news/around-uwg/rouse.php>*

The highest honor a person can hold in a parade is the position of grand marshal. The grand marshal is chosen because he or she is believed to demonstrate the spirit and ideas that the parade is designed to reflect and portray. This year, the Carroll County Branch of the NAACP invited Deidre Rouse, director of the University of West Georgia's Center for Diversity and Inclusion (CDI), to fulfill that role in its 21st Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Parade.

This year's parade, which took place on Monday, January 16, was appropriately themed "Dr. Martin Luther King's Vision of Unity, Justice, and Peace." Deidre was chosen by the parade committee to serve as grand marshal because of her service within the Carroll County community.

"When I was asked to serve as grand marshal of the annual Carroll County NAACP Dr. King parade, to be quite honest, I was surprised and humbled," Deidre said. "I am reminded, of course, of Dr. King and his work, but also the countless others who supported the movement. Thus, I am reflecting on the immeasurable number of champions who make a difference and have a positive effect in this community and beyond."

The opportunity to serve as grand marshal came shortly after Deidre's nomination for the Turknett Leadership Character Award. This nomination placed

her among several noteworthy leaders within the field of education, such as Ron Clark Academy founder Kim Bearden.

Deidre has received these honorable recognitions and opportunities because of her work within the CDI at UWG. As director, Deidre works to help the CDI reach its mission to create a fully inclusive environment for the campus and community. The CDI strives to serve as a leader and partner for diversity at UWG.

"I truly enjoy helping others wherever they may be on their life journey," Deidre said of her work. "I am inspired by those who exhibit integrity in all aspects of life."

Out of all deserving organizations and individuals in the community, the parade committee unanimously selected Deidre for the position. Deidre said she was appreciative of and honored by her title in the recent parade.

"I am reminded of something my grandmother would say too often and encouraged me to never forget," Deidre concluded. "People don't have to do what they do for you. Always say thank you and be grateful."



Photo by Ricky Stille/Times-Georgian  
ABCC Board Member Deidre Rouse serves as grand marshal of the Carroll County NAACP Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day parade.



The sankofa bird is often used in traditional Akan art, which originated among the Akan people of West Africa. The symbol is used in the African-American and African Diaspora context to illustrate the need to reflect on the past to build a successful future. Information from Wikipedia.com.

## Angela Davis Speaks at Ohio State's MLK Jr. Celebration

*Editor's Note: Reprinted from <http://odi.osu.edu/hale-black-cultural-center/hbcc-events/mlk-celebration/>*

The Office of Diversity and Inclusion's Frank W. Hale Jr. Black Cultural Center celebrated the life and legacy of Dr. King with the 45th Annual MLK Celebration in January. Through peaceful protest, the Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr. spent his life as a social activist working against injustice. Dr. King worked to end the legal segregation of African Americans, founded the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, was a recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize, and his life had a profound impact on race relations in the United States.

“Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.” MLK

This year's speaker, Dr. Angela Davis – American political activist, academic scholar, and author – spoke to a full house at Mershon Auditorium. Dr. Davis emerged as a prominent counterculture activist and radical in the 1960s as a leader of the Communist Party USA and had close relations with the Black Panther Party through her involvement in the Civil Rights Movement.

Larry Williamson, director of the Hale Center, welcomed nearly 2400 attendees to the event. The audience then heard the African American Voice Gospel Choir sing “Lift Ev’ry Voice and Sing.” Tributes to Dr. King and Dr. Davis were given by Professor Sharon Davies, Vice Provost for Diversity and Inclusion, and Dr. Javaune Adams-Gaston, Vice President for Student Life, before India Brown, award-winning spoken word artist, performed a piece that incorporated both poetry and singing.

The presentation of the 2017 MLK Memorial Scholarships brought forth a class of remarkable undergraduates whose careers include providing leadership and service to the Office of Diversity and Inclusion and the university community. Established in 1970, the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Scholarship is a full merit-based scholarship awarded to students who are junior rank or above with preference given to African-American students. Now funded by Ohio State's Campus Campaign, the scholarship is given to at least four students each year. This year's awardees were Zoe Cook, Geoffrey Green, Michael Inman, Morgan Morrison, Erin Myers, and DeMario Webb.

The 2017 MLK Dreamer Award was presented to Michelle Alexander, a civil right lawyer and professor in the Moritz College of Law. Professor Alexander is the author of the best-selling and award-winning book, *The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness*.

After another musical selection from the African American Voices Gospel Choir, Dr. Maurice Stevens, associate professor in the Department of Comparative Studies, introduced the keynote speaker. Dr. Davis brought a message that focused on the injustices addressed by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Being militant, Dr. Davis stated, means to be “persistent and demanding” and that it is possible to be militantly non-violent. She also reminded attendees of the “long reach of the work” that is being done, that agents of change need to look less for immediate results and more toward lasting transformation.



### ABCC Mission

The Association for Black Culture Centers is an organization that seeks to celebrate, promote and critically examine the cultures (ways of life) of the following ethnic groups: African American, Latino, Asian American and Native American. We aim to institutionalize those Centers, including Multiculture Centers, to enhance individual, community and global development. The ABCC believes that increased understanding of history and culture of each ethnic group will lead to authentic integration on campus and in the community. Latinos, Asian Americans and Native Americans have an historical and contemporary connection with Africana people, and we begin these relationships by focusing on the connections.

## Conversation Series: Muslim American Experiences and Islamophobia

By Deirdre Rouse

Director, Center for Diversity and Inclusion  
University of West Georgia

The Conversation Series held, January 26, 2017 by the University of West Georgia's Center for Diversity and Inclusion was the third and final event for the series academic year. The 2016-17 series focus has been the different aspects of Violence. (This series has been in collaboration with UWG Psychology Department chair, Dr. Donadrian Rice.) Instituted in 2011, the Conversation Series occurs twice per semester. Its purpose is to provide an atmosphere for presenting challenging topics that generate thought-provoking conversations.

On January 26, 2017, Attorney Edward Mitchell, who serves on the Council on American Islamic Relations (CAIR-GA) and Dr. Isam Vaid, from Emory University's



Mitchell, graduate of Morehouse College & Georgetown University Law Center, is also Editor of Atlanta Muslim & member of the Georgia Association of Muslim Lawyers.

ty's Office of Spiritual and Religious Life, were the guest speakers. Dr. Mitchell gave keen insight into support cases that CAIR receives on a daily basis as they relate to Muslim challenges such as systemic discrimination. CAIR, a Civil Rights advocacy group was founded in 1994 in Washington D.C. Dr. Vaid emphasized the importance of respecting and supporting those who are Muslims on campus and in the community. He noted that the concerns and threats facing Muslims are real. This event was also supported by Robert Beshara, psychology doctoral student, UWG's History and Political Science Departments and International Admissions and Programs.



Dr. Vaid, graduate of Emory University's Masters in Public and health and a Ph.D. from University of Alabama-Birmingham, serves as advisor to Muslim students.

### Event Briefs

#### Wabash College

The Malcolm X Institute of Black Studies helped coordinate a showing of the documentary, *13<sup>th</sup>*. A 2017 Oscar Nominee for Best Documentary (Feature), the film examines race and mass incarceration in the U.S. A panel discussion on criminal justice also took place, featuring local law enforcement, legal experts and Wabash students.

#### Winona State University

The K.E.A.P. Diversity Resource Center held four dynamic co-curricular programming events in January. A viewing and discussion of the PBS American Experience film, *The Murder of Emmett Till*, kicked off the programming series. Civil Rights Activist, Joanne Bland, visited campus and gave a presentation called "Hollywood's Myths and Realities of the Civil Rights Movement." Minneapolis NAACP President and Criminal Justice Educator, Jason Sole, led an afternoon workshop on "School to Prison: From Prison to PhD: A Memoir of Hope, Resilience, and Second Chances." The same day he gave an evening keynote titled "Black Lives Matter: Connecting the Movement's Platform to the Civil Rights and Black Power Movements."

#### Yale University

As part of Black History Month, the Yale University Afro-American Cultural Center held its second annual Celebration of Black Life. The event included a student presentation on the 50th anniversary of the Black Panther Party. The presentation examined connections between historic and contemporary social movements and discussed the Black Panthers' social services. Founded in 1969, the Afro-American Cultural Center is one of four student centers at Yale.

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## Stephens Named Director of Bruce D. Nesbitt African American Cultural Center

By Nathan Stephens

Director, Bruce D. Nesbitt African American Cultural Center  
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

**N**athan Stephens is the new Director of the Bruce D. Nesbitt African American Cultural Center at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. He holds a bachelor's and master's degree in social work from Columbia College and the University of Missouri-Columbia, respectively. He is a Ph.D. candidate in the educational leadership and policy analysis program at the University of Missouri. Nathan's research interests are the academic experiences of Black male collegians, diversity and inclusion in higher education, organizational development and social justice.

As the senior coordinator of the Gaines/Oldham Black Culture Center at the University of Missouri, Nathan became affiliated with the Association for Black Culture Centers in 2006 while attending the annual conference cohosted by North Carolina State University. In his excitement about ABCC, he proposed that the University of Missouri cohost the next conference. In 2007, he and his colleagues at the University of Missouri (Mizzou) served as cohosts of the Association for Black Culture Centers annual conference featuring keynotes from Dr. Darlene Clark Hine, Dr. Julianne Malveaux and Dr. James Stewart. It was a conference with many schools attending that had not previously done so.

Also while at Mizzou, Nathan taught Working with Minority Youth, Introduction to Community and Organizational Processes, Strategies for Academically Successful Black Men, and Men's Leadership and Development. Additionally, he taught

Race and Ethnicity for the School of Social Work at William Woods University.

Finally, Nathan also served on the School of Social Work BSW Advisory Boards for both the University of Missouri and William Woods University, and assisted with accreditation.

Nathan moved to Carbondale, IL and accepted the position of the Director of the Center for Inclusive Excellence in 2013, which contained a Black Resource Center, Hispanic/Latino Resource Center, LGBTQ Resource Center and a Women's Resource Center. With this move Nathan expanded his experience working with a range of populations that relied upon the various centers for support, guidance, advocacy and collaborations with many student organizations and campus departments. As a diversity and inclusion specialist at SIU, Nathan conducted several trainings and workshops, and coordinated many events related to Black History Month, Women's History Month, Asian and Pacific Islander History Month, Hispanic/Latino Heritage Month, LGBTQ History Month and Native American History Month. Additionally, he provided racial profiling and cultural competency training to the SIU Department of Public Safety, and served on the Board of Fire and Police Commissioners for the City of Carbondale.



*Continued on page 18...*

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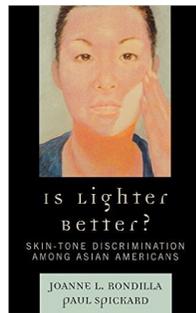
## **Stephens Named Director of Bruce D. Nesbitt African American Cultural Center...Continued from page 17**

By Nathan Stephens

Nathan's background includes his extensive non-profit administration experience as co-founder of the Youth Empowerment Zone (Columbia, MO), his service on the Board of Directors for the Heart of Missouri United Way, Big Brothers Big Sisters, and 10 years of experience as an administrator in multicultural affairs. In higher education, Nathan has served on search

committees, strategic planning committees, advisory committees, building committees, cultural event planning committees, conference planning committees, and even served on a taskforce charged to respond to a discrimination complaint filed with the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Civil Rights.

### **Building Connections: Recommended Afro-Asian Books**



**Is Lighter Better?: Skin-Tone Discrimination among Asian Americans**  
By Joanne L. Rondilla and Paul Spickard  
Rowman & Littlefield Publishers



**AfroAsian Encounters: Culture, History, Politics**  
Edited by Heike Raphael-Hernandez and Shannon Steen  
NYU Press

### **Why Read These Books?**

From possible ideas for your Center library to your own reading list, we're always looking for books that demonstrate the historical and contemporary connections African people have with Latinos, Asian Americans and Native Americans. ABCC Work Study Student, Jordan Brown, selected the following Afro-Asian book titles you might want to check out:

#### **Policies**

Lynch, Annette. *Dress, Gender and Cultural Change: Asian American and African American Rites of Passage*. Oxford: Oxford International Publishers Ltd, 1999. Print.

#### **Politics**

Roberts, Tamara. *Resounding Afro Asia: Interracial Music and the Politics of Collaboration*. Oxford University Press, 2016. Print.

#### **Influence**

Amun, Ra Hen-Nefer. *Black Civilizations of Southeast Asia*. New York. 2014. Print.

Wu, Frank H. *Yellow: Race in America Beyond Black and White*. New York: Basic Books, 2003. Print.

#### **Partnerships**

Chon-Smith, Chong. *East Meets Black: Asian and Black Masculinities in the Post-Civil Rights Era*. University of Mississippi Press, 2015. Print.

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## Your Center's Other Front Door

By Donnie Forti  
ABCC Web Expert

Your website is the new front door to your Center. This door is always open, with people entering and leaving from around the world 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Are your visitors leaving your Center's website with the information they searched for, whether on a search engine or the site itself? Does your website reflect the strengths and value your Center provides to your campus and community?

To answer these questions, ask your university or college's communications and marketing division to conduct a site assessment using Google Analytics data. The data will show you the most viewed pages, average time spent on each page, and what terms people use to search for content and other data. Using this information, you can eliminate pages getting limited traffic while focusing your time improving pages users are actually searching for. When viewing the most common search terms, you might find that a set of terms has a particularly high number of unique searches. As a result, it may be worth moving the link to the page people are searching for to a more prominent location on your site's navigation.

As you review the analytics, you'll likely find pages that haven't been updated or PDF files that you don't use anymore. Think of your site as an enrollment and retention tool. It's not a file cabinet to store last year's information. Focus on maintaining a smaller number of pages that feature jargon-free and updated text in a conversational and inviting tone. Your college or university likely uses a style guide for writing text, such as the Associated Press, so be sure to grab a

copy. Pick a compelling photo, too. Rather than a boring building photo, talk to your college or university's photographer about getting students interacting with your staff inside or outside the Center. This helps demonstrate the value of your Center's staff work with students.

Google Analytics will likely show your staff and contact us pages among the most viewed. For your staff page, ask your college or university's photographer to take environmental portraits of your staff. Unlike a studio shot, these portraits show your staff in action, whether it's in the classroom or the office. Consider using a question format to structure your staff bio page. For instance, you could have each staff member give an answer to a question, such as "What do you enjoy most about working with students?" Or "What energizes you?" Having a staff member answer a question will make the typical email address and phone number staff listing come alive.

It's a best practice to review content every six months. Keeping your site current will help promote your Center's strengths, while giving a positive first impression to prospective students considering your college or university. Plus, a well-organized, updated site might catch the eyes of ABCC headquarters. At our national conference, the ABCC selects an institutional member's website to receive the Kemet Award for Best Center Website. The University of Michigan Trotter Multicultural Center won the award at our 2016 national conference at Louisiana State University. Your Center's site might win the award next!



NIU President Doug Baker recognizes ABCC Founder/ Executive Dr. Fred Hord at the annual homecoming reception for NIU Faculty, Staff and Graduate Students of Color. Hord was selected for the Minority Access National Role Model Award. Past winners include former U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder.



NIU President Doug Baker recognizes Associate Vice President for Process Improvement & Operational Effectiveness, Dr. LaVonne Neal, at the annual homecoming reception for NIU Faculty, Staff and Graduate Students of Color. Neal was selected as the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH) 2016 Mary McLeod Bethune Service Award recipient.

## ASSOCIATION FOR BLACK CULTURE CENTERS



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