FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NIU Announces 2016 Black History Month Events Schedule

DeKalb — NIU’s Center for Black Studies has scheduled a full slate of events for Black Heritage Month. The theme for this year is New Age of Resistance: Respecting our History, Defining our Future. Join us for the Black History Month Ancestral Opening Ceremony on February 1st in the Holmes Student Center, Duke Ellington Ballroom at 6 pm.

The Ancestral Opening is a collaboration of diversity centers, Black student organizations, and the Center for Black Studies. It is hosted by John Henrik Clarke Honor Society and Succeed and Success Plan (S-Plan). The ceremony will include a flag ceremony, libations, music and dancing. The Muntu Dance Theatre will open with an oral and musical performance.

The themes of culture, unity and responsibility inspire all Black Heritage activities, including a month-long recognition of American Heart Month and the American Heart Association. The color red will be worn on February 1st to symbolize the blood of our ancestors and to focus attention on heart disease, one of the leading causes of death among African Americans. Events are free and open to the campus and community.

- **Monday, Feb 1:** American Heart Association -Wear Red Day & John Henrik Clarke and S-Plan, Black History Month Ancestral Opening. A program to provide a collaboration of all African American and Latino groups to stand in solidarity to open Black Heritage Month. The Nunufatima Dance Company will bring its authentic and progressive interpretation of contemporary and ancient African and African-American dance, music, and folklore. The program will be held in the Holmes Student Center Carl – Duke Ellington Ballroom and begins at 6 pm.

- **Tuesday, Feb 2:** Black Male Initiative, Blood Drive, partnering with Heartland Blood Centers to create awareness on the importance of donating blood, particularly donations from/to African Americans. Chick Evans Fieldhouse, 11am.

- **Wednesday, Feb 3:** Phi Rho Eta, Modern Day Sambo Effect, will bring attention to the portrayal of young African American men and women in various media. Holmes Student Center - Heritage Room 7-9pm.

- **Thursday, Feb 4:** Zeta Phi Beta, Back to Our Roots, a program designed to discuss the role of NPHC Greeks and African American Organizations. Discussions will include an examination of past and present problems facing the African-American community. Holmes Student Center - Heritage Room, 7:20pm.

- **Friday, Feb 5:** Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. Pink Goes Red an event to inform the NIU campus and community of the dangers of heart disease, provide ways to prevent it, and promote awareness of the high rate of heart disease in the African-American community. Campus Recreation Building, 7pm.
- **Tuesday, Feb 9:** John Henrik Clarke Recognition and S-Plan Image Awards, highlight the academic achievements of students in both programs. Holmes Student Center - Carl Sandburg Auditorium, 6-9 pm.
- **Wednesday, Feb 10:** B. R. O. T. H. E. R. S., *Tribute to Black Women* acknowledges students, faculty, and others who are making major contributions to African-American culture on campus and/or in the community. Holmes Student Center - Duke Ellington, 7-10 pm.
- **Thursday, Feb 11:** Delta Sigma Theta- Zeta Iota Chapter, *Police Accountability: Reclaiming and Redefining Civil Rights*. This workshop is designed to support the enactment of a federal law on the use of lethal force by law enforcement officials by informing and engaging the community as to what roles citizens can play in the oversight of policing. Holmes Student Center - University Suite, 7pm.
- **Saturday, Feb 13:** Black Male Initiative, *Dodgeball Tournament*, an annual event aimed to raise money, which will be donated to sickle cell research and raise awareness of the disease. Chick Evans Fieldhouse, 2pm.
- **Sunday, Feb 14:** “*Spreading the Love,*” a day of reflection and memory. Forward, Together, Forward.
- **Monday, Feb 15:** Gender and Sexuality Resource Center, #whoselivesareweforgetting: Examining #blacklivesmatter, a workshop providing students with a basic understanding of the nuances of the intersections of Queer and racial identities. Holmes Student Center: Illinois Room, 5:30-7pm.
  
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  Black Graduate Student Association, #blackgradsmatter, this event will provide students with the tools, support, and information to matriculate through graduate school. The event will also promote the importance of graduate school education today. Holmes Student Center: Illinois Room, 7-9pm.
- **Wednesday, Feb 17:** Black Male Initiative, *Black Male Forgiveness Event*, a powerful program focusing on forgiving others from our past and sometimes even forgiving ourselves, which will provide resources on how to deal with grief and how to express positive emotions. Stevenson - Multipurpose Room, 7pm.
- **Thursday, Feb 18:** Gender and Sexuality Resource Center, *Honoring Audre Lorde*, a program to honor the life and legacy of Audre Lorde, a self-named “Black, lesbian, mother, warrior, poet.” Gender & Sexuality Resource Center - Conference Room, 11am.
- **Friday, Feb 19:** Phi Beta Sigma, *Reaching the Unreached*, an in depth discussion on the historical background and the losses and gains of the educational system and African American enrollment. Speaker: Steve Birdine, Founder/President/CEO affirmations and action! Holmes Student Center - Illinois Room, 5pm.
- **Saturday, Feb 20:** Black Student Union, *Mr. and Miss Freshmen BSU Pageant*, established to serve as a liaison for the freshmen class to the Black Student Union and as a means for mentorship, scholarship, and to provide for many other needs our freshmen body may seek, Holmes Student Center - Duke Ellington, 7 pm.
- **Monday, Feb 22:** National Society of Black Engineers, *Thinking of a Master Plan: Protecting Your Creative Mind*, a program designed to promote business ownership, develop the business skills of potential owners, and educate the campus and community about Black-owned businesses and technology. Holmes Student Center - Lincoln Room, 6pm.
- **Tuesday, Feb 23:** National Society of Black Engineers, *Inspiring Innovation: Pursuing Your Passions and Finding Purpose*, is a program designed to increase the number of culturally responsible Black engineers who excel academically, succeed professionally, and positively impact the community. Holmes Student Center - Lincoln Room, 6pm.
Wednesday, Feb 24: O.B.E.A Women of SAAS, A Walk through a Forgotten History: Honoring Our Legacy before Slavery, will engage participants in an informative discussion surrounding the forgotten history of African American descendants and the impact on their culture. Holmes Student Center: Glass Gallery Lounge, 1pm.

Thursday, Feb. 25: Black Counselors Association, #blackmindsmatter, a program intended to address the negative stigma of mental health in the Black community and the importance of seeking help for mental well-being. Holmes Student Center; Room 506, 5pm.

Sigma Gamma Rho, My Black is Beautiful, is an event geared toward examining the different Afro hair types and how to manage natural hair styles on a budget. The program will also discuss cosmetics, in which make-up artists will be present to showcase proper make-up techniques. The event will take place at the Holmes Student Center – Rm 505 at 7:22 pm.

Friday, Feb. 26: Phi Beta Sigma, Frat Attack, this event will consist of participation of the whole Divine Nine where the sororities are assigned as specific fraternities of the Divine Nine and perform their steps that are originated from those particular fraternities. The fraternities challenge is to perform their best strolls as there is a reward for the top stroll from them, and a reward as well for the best sorority step. Carl Sandburg, 7:30pm.

Monday, Feb. 29: Zeta Phi Beta, Soul Bowl Banquet, a celebration and opportunity to break bread together with friends, family, new associates and loved ones and to encourage each other to continue to build upon the foundation laid by our ancestors. New Hope Missionary Baptist Church, 1201 Twombly Road, DeKalb, IL, 6:20pm.


Campus Units. Asian American Center, Black Faculty & Staff Association, The College of Education, Counseling, Adult & Higher Education, Health Enhancement, Gender & Sexuality Resource Center, Latino Resource Center, Division of Student Affairs and Enrollment Management, Office of the President, Provost, and Chief Diversity Officer, Office of Student Engagement and Experiential Learning, Student Support Services, TRIO