March 8, 2016

Dear Graduate,

The Center for Black Studies and Black Graduate Student Association would like to congratulate you on persistence, hard work and your accomplishment of obtaining your degree, and moving forward on yet another new journey. As you leave Northern Illinois University, we would like to celebrate this honor with you.

You are cordially invited to participate in the 27th Annual Black Graduation Recognition Ceremony. The ceremony will be take place on Sunday, May 8, 2016, at 3:00 p.m., in the Duke Ellington Ball Room. The Recognition Ceremony is an opportunity for us to recognize your accomplishments and celebrate your successful matriculation. This year we will have a rehearsal and dinner reception.

As we continue to celebrate the accomplishments of our graduates, we have worked tirelessly to ensure you have the best commencement experience. This year we have incorporated some new components of the graduation experience. Additionally, we will have light refreshments in the Regency Room immediately following the ceremony. Below are the times of each:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Check-In</td>
<td>Regency Room</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Processional Line-Up</td>
<td>Duke Ellington</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Black Graduation Ceremony</td>
<td>Duke Ellington</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Light Refreshments</td>
<td>Regency Room</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Graduates should be prepared to arrive at 1:30 for check-in. The processional line-up will begin at 2:00 pm. Please note the graduation ceremony will start promptly at 3:00 pm. As will be indicated on the program, events on the day of the ceremony are continuous; participants should not leave the area once they have checked in. Graduates should be dressed in business attire the day of the ceremony.

So that we may prepare recognition certificates in a timely manner, please complete the attached form and return to the Center for Black Studies by April 29th, 2016. If you register after April 29th, there is no guarantee that you will be able to participate in the ceremony. We strongly suggest completing this in advance.

We look forward to celebrating and recognizing your success at the Black Graduation Recognition Ceremony. We encourage you to invite your family and friends to join in the celebration. If you have any questions, please call the Center for Black Studies, 815-753-1709 or email jalford2@niu.edu, centerblackstudies@niu.edu.

Sincerely,

Dr. Joy Coates
Joy Coates, PhD, Acting Director
Center for Black Studies

James Alford
James Alford, President
Black Graduate Student Association
The Center for Black Studies &
Black Graduate Student Association

Hosts

The 27th Annual Black Graduation Recognition Ceremony

Honorees:

All who are graduating in the year 2016

Sunday, May 8, 2016

Holmes Student Center

Duke Ellington Ballroom

Ceremony will begin promptly at 3:00 pm

(Limited space)

Graduates must RSVP by returning the form to the Center for Black Studies by April 29, 2016