“RECLAIMING OUR ROOTS, RENEWING OUR COMMITMENT”

In conjunction with student organizations, Dr. Joy Coates, chair of the Black Heritage Month Committee and Romeo Jackson, vice chair, organized a full slate of social, cultural, and academic programs in February. The theme for this year was “Reclaiming Our Roots, Renewing Our Commitment” and honored Nelson Mandela’s life, work and legacy. Monday, February 3rd, NIU History Professor, Dr. Ismael Montana, lead a discussion of the film, *Mandela: From Prison to President*, in the Holmes Student Center - Carl Sandburg Auditorium 2-4 pm. The Black Heritage Month Ancestral Opening Ceremony took place in the Carl Sandburg Auditorium at 7 p.m.

The Ancestral Opening was a collaboration of Black student organizations and the Center for Black Studies, and was organized by Ms. Regina Curry and hosted by John Henrik Clarke, S-Plan, and The Huskies Scholars. It featured spoken word, a skit, one of Mandela’s speeches, clips of Mandela, a tribute to Winnie Mandela, a praise dance, and a performance by the NIU choir. Derrick Smith, Community Outreach Coordinator, CBS; Lisa King, Associate Director, CHANCE; and Deb Miller, Office of Student Academic Success, participated in the ceremony by reflecting on Mandela's contributions. Dr. LaVerne Gyant, Director of the Center for Black Studies, gave closing remarks.

The themes of culture, unity and responsibility inspired all Black Heritage Month activities, including a month-long recognition of American Heart Month and the American Heart Association. The color red was worn on Feb. 1 to symbolize the blood of our ancestors and to focus attention on heart disease, one of the leading causes of death among African Americans. All events were free and open to the public.


University sponsors: Asian American Center, Black Faculty Association, The College of Education, Diversity and Equity, Graduate Colloquium, Health Enhancement, Latino Resources Center, LGBT Resources Center, Student Support Services, Women’s Resources Center, Women’s Studies
BGSA, GRAD COLLOQUIUM, BMI, BSU, SPEAKER, DR. KAWANJA KUNJUFU

B.R.O.T.H.E.R.S., Tribute to Black Women

CBS, Alpha Phi Alpha, M.O.V.E., BMI, SPEAKER, Ashra Kwesi


Opening Ceremony, Derrick Smith, Deb Miller

Mr. & Miss Freshman BSU Pageant

BMI, Leadership 101 & Stephen Samuels

CBS, Alpha Phi Alpha, Zeta Phi Beta, M.O.V.E., BMI, SPEAKER, Malik Zulu Shabazz

Zeta Phi Beta, Speaker - Soul Bowl

Zeta Phi Beta, Soul Bowl

Department of Intercollegiate Athletics - Dr. Gyant, Black History Honoree, at the Women's Basketball game on 2/27—and they won!!!
MARCH IS WOMEN’S HISTORY MONTH AS WELL AS THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE 1964 CIVIL RIGHTS ACT.

Exploring Civil Rights: A Panel Discussion
March 19, 6:00 p.m.
Holmes Student Center, Capitol Room

The panel discussion will focus on the 50th anniversary of the Civil Rights Act. The panel will include three distinguished NIU scholars: Dr. Laverne Gyant, Director of the Center for Black Studies; Dr. Diane Rodgers, Associate Professor of Sociology; and Dr. Elvia Arriola, Professor of Law. Sponsors: Department of History and Women’s Studies & LGBT Studies Programs.