In conjunction with academic units, diversity centers, and student organizations, Dr. Joy Coates, chair of the Black Heritage Month Committee, Ronnett Lockett, Graduate Assistant at CBS & vice chair, and Prof. Cornelius Gilbert of CAME organized a full slate of social, cultural, and academic programs in February. The theme for this year was **Civil Rights: History...Memory...Unity!** and celebrated the 100th birthday of Dr. John Henrik Clarke, an African American poet, writer, and professor. M.O.V.E. and the Center for Black Studies sponsored scholar, activist, and organizational consultant Professor James Small. Professor Small taught for fifteen years at the City University of New York, including thirteen years at the City College of New York's Black Studies Department where he taught on Pan-Africanism, Malcolm X, and comparative African religions; and two years teaching African Folklore and Religion at New York City Technical College. Professor Small also studied under Dr. Henrik Clarke. Although the opening ceremony was cancelled due bad weather, which resulted in the closure of the university, the month overall was a success. 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.


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

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"History is a clock that people use to tell their political and cultural time of day. It is also a compass that people use to find themselves on the map of human geography. History tells a people where they have been and what they have been, where they are and what they are. Most important, history tells a people where they still must go, what they still must be..."

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"I think every person that calls themselves a leader, a preacher, a policy maker of any kind should ask and answer the question in his own life time, how will my people stay on this earth? How will they be educated? How will they be schooled? How will they be housed? And how will they be defended? The answer to these questions will create the concept of enduring nationhood because it creates the concept of enduring responsibility. I am saying whatever the solution is, either we are in charge of our own destiny or we are not in charge. ..."  

Dr. JHC
NIU Veterans Assn, Military Student Svs & CBS, Kenneth Rapier, Tuskegee Airmen Program

ASA & CBS, Dr. Venus Evans-Winters, Black Genius

GSRC, The Audacity of Black Sexuality

S-Plan and John Henrik Clarke Image Awards

M.O.V.E. & CBS, Professor James Small: lecture, John Henrik Clarke
Saying I had a great time at NIU would be an understatement. I’ve learned so much from my mentor. I was assigned to a group of mentors called (S.I.S.T.E.R.S). One of the mentors, Sabrina took a couple of my friends and I to her physical therapy class. Great experience! She also took us to the legal affairs office and introduced me to two students who are majoring in pre-law. The same thing I want to major in. They gave me the run down on what to expect. I really appreciate being able to have such a wonderful experience. Oh…I have plenty of phone numbers. College ready is what I am.  

Keishawna Collier
I had a good time! The mentors were a good influence to us. My mentor was Christian. We ate with other college students in the cafeteria and they made me feel like I belonged there. I thought it was interesting that they have separate dorms that are based on money and academics. This was a good trip, I learned a lot, and I am glad I got a chance to come here. Thanks. DeAuntae Manning

My trip to NIU was a great experience! So great that I’ve made my decision of where I want to go in the fall to start my adult life and lead me to my career. One of my highlights was the fashion show. This event was like what BET has “Rip The Run way” I even got a chance to strut my stuff on the runway. I also like how your resources are not that far, and you have multiple programs to help you. There are so many resources and my ultimate favorite was the Neptune Buffet Cafeteria. Everything is at your fingertips. It was soooo good. I really enjoyed this trip, it gave me so much insight and I can’t wait to attend in the fall. #NIU2019

Jamesha Payton

I had a wonderful time at NIU. I learned a lot from the organizations, mentors, and guest speakers. I appreciate how welcoming they were to my classmates and I. Although it was only two days they really took us under their wings and gave us the experience of an everyday college student. I am even more excited than before to start college in the fall!

Z’iara Randolph

My NIU EXPERIENCE WAS GREAT! I really enjoyed myself. I really love that we were partnered up with a complete stranger to learn about how they enjoy college life and also what they disliked about it. My mentor was the BEST MENTOR, he showed me the campus life. I really like how this program works and helps us to network with other students to get around NIU. Thank you AUSL for showing me the campus life and meeting the Best Freshman (Keith) and also a NEW FRIEND.

James Sellars

What I experienced from college life was how to survive on campus without any relatives and always learn how to meet new people so that you can learn new things. Now, after having this experience I enjoy college, and can’t wait to be a college student which is coming up this fall.

Shaquenna Warren

This is Regan. I wanted you to know that I had a wonderful time and experience at Northern Illinois University February 26-27. My mentor’s name was Sabrina and she was such a help and a wonderful person. I met other people from the school and they gave me and the others from Orr advice on what to do and what not to do. What they mainly told us was to stay on top of our work and try to join an organization so that we could be known and have a support system. I myself am lazy and a big procrastinator, therefore I am going to take their advice because they know the struggle.

Regan Whaley

What stood out for me at Northern Illinois University was the amazing students that helped us even though they had other things to do. I liked the campus tours, the Huskie Den, and the workout room. I liked staying overnight and got a chance to see the dorms and apartments. I met a lot of people and got lots of phone numbers. I learned a lot about the CHANCE Program and know that I need to update my personal statement. When I do I will make sure that I put my experience with the “Talented Tenth Program”. I will be at NIU in the fall for sure.

Rajeeyah Wilson.

Thank you to AUSL and to everyone who organized this event. A SPECIAL THANK YOU to all of the Student Mentors, Don Bramlett, Derrick Smith, and Kweli Kwaza. We truly appreciated your efforts & hospitality. Gayle McInnis, Transition Coordinator Orr Academy
PICTURED ABOVE – CENTER FOR BLACK STUDIES STAFF (LEFT TO RIGHT): Mr. Derrick Smith, Community Outreach Coordinator; Dr. LaVerne Gyant, Director; Dr. Joy Coates, Associate Director; and Ms. Regina Curry, S-Plan Coordinator (not pictured, Don Bramlett, Graduation Specialist)