MARCH 2015
Women’s History Month

BLACK GIRLS ROCK!

BLACK GIRLS ROCK! Inc. is 501(c)3 non-profit youth empowerment and mentoring organization established to promote the arts for young women of color, as well as to encourage dialog and analysis of the ways women of color are portrayed in the media. After passing the bar, Michelle accepted a position at a prominent law firm in Chicago, at the time, the only African American in her department and one of the few in the company. Michelle went on to meet Barack Obama at the firm when he was later hired as an intern and she was assigned as his mentor. Before long the two were dating and after two years, they were married. In 2008 Barack Obama was elected the 43rd president of the United States making him the first African American POTUS this nation had ever seen, and Michelle the first African American First Lady in our history.

BLACK GIRLS ROCK! Inc. continues to partner with BET Networks in the worldwide broadcast of BLACK GIRLS ROCK! (since 2006). The event continues to be a historic and monumental show highlighting the accomplishments of exceptional women of color who have made outstanding contributions in their careers, and who stand as inspirational and positive role models in their communities. Michelle’s story of struggle and achievement is uplifting and inspiring – one to be celebrated this March as our nation recognize Women’s History Month.

Sunday, April 5th, Black Girls Rock! honored six women, and for the first time, First Lady, Michelle Obama, graced the ceremony:

Jada Pinkett Smith, Star Power
Erykah Badu, Rock Star
Ava DuVernay, Shot Caller
Cicely Tyson, Living Legend
Dr. Helene D. Gayle, Social Humanitarian
Nadia Lopez, Change Agent

To see highlights, go to http://www.bet.com/shows/black-girls-rock/awards.html. For info on the organization, go to http://www.blackgirlsrockinc.com/

WORDS OF WISDOM…

“We’re here to share what we know and understand now!” - Jada Pinkett Smith

“The light always shows on the outside if you are striving to be good inside.” – Erykah Badu

“Be passionate and move forward with gusto every single hour of every single day until you reach your goal.” – Ava DuVernay

“Challenges make you discover things about yourself that you never really knew. They’re what make the instrument stretch - what make you go beyond the norm.” – Cicely Tyson

“When girls and women gain a voice, they become empowered. And when that happens, everyone wins.” – Dr. Helene D. Gayle

“As women, we are constantly having to prove our worth, our intelligence, and having to fight for the respect on our jobs, in our society, and many times, in our homes. [...] But the She that is great, whether recognized or not, is in all of us. She is significant, she is heroic, and she is exquisite.” – Nadia Lopez
Students from China visit Ms. Curry’s Class BKST 202: Issues Facing African American Students

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)