The Division of Student Services and the School of Continuing Education PRESENT

FEBRUARY 2024

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Open to the Public at No Cost!
Wayne County Community College District’s School Division of Student Services and School of Continuing Education present month-long programs to commemorate Black History Month beginning February 1, 2024. Students, Faculty, Staff and community members are invited to participate in all activities.

Honoring the rich contributions of Africans and African Americans to our nation.

**PROGRAM LINEUP**

**Curtis L. Ivery Downtown Campus**

**2/12**

**Ancient Sudan: 1 Million Years of Human Occupation**

Nubia Wardford Polk holds a M.A. in Historic Archeology with a specialty in Archeology of the African World and is completing her Ph.D. Her involvement in archeological digs in Africa and South America along with primary research has resulted in the conclusions of the importance of ancient Kush and Kemet which predate Egypt. Mrs. Polk will share images that bring to life accomplishments of the Black inhabitants and rulers of the most ancient civilization in the world.  

11:00 a.m. • Frank Hayden Community Room

**2/13**

**Unveiling the Underground Railroad in Detroit - The Movement and The Men**

Dr. Carolyn Carter, researcher, archivist, historian and genealogist will delve into the clandestine network of abolitionists, daring escapes, and the heroic individuals who played pivotal roles in the liberation of enslaved people. Explore the unique context of Detroit as a crucial hub within the Underground Railroad, tracing the pathways taken by freedom seekers and the safe houses that provided refuge. From the early 19th century through the Civil War era, discover the strategic significance of Detroit in facilitating the escape of enslaved individuals seeking freedom in Canada.  

1:00 p.m. • Frank Hayden Community Room
Building Black Food Sovereignty
Malik Yakini will discuss the concepts of food security and food sovereignty within the context of the African American experience. The presentation will discuss the many ways in which Black people have contributed historically to American agriculture and food ways and the many ways in which the knowledge, land and wealth of African Americans has been extracted for the benefit of the larger society. Mr. Yakini will present examples of contemporary efforts locally, nationally and internationally to build Black food sovereignty. Mr. Malik Yakini, Founder and Director of the D-Town Farm and the Detroit Black Community Food Security Network. Mr. Yakini is also co-founder and Executive Director of the Detroit Black Community Food Security Network (DBCFSN). DBCFSN operates a seven-acre urban farm in Detroit and is spearheading the opening of the Detroit Food Commons, the new building that will house the Detroit People’s Food Co-op, a cooperatively grocery store in Detroit’s North End. Mr. Yakini views the work of DBCFSN as part of the larger movement for building power, self-determination, and justice.
11:00 a.m. • Entrepreneurial Resource Center

Paradise Valley and Black Bottom Neighborhoods of Detroit
Ken Coleman will present on Paradise Valley and Black Bottom neighborhoods of Detroit. Ken Coleman writes about Southeast Michigan, history and civil rights. He is a former Michigan Chronicle senior editor and served as the American Black Journal segment host on Detroit Public Television.

He has written and published four books on Black life in Detroit. Early in the 1950s, in one of the most controversial episodes of mass gentrification in Detroit history, the virtually all-white city government bulldozed Black Bottom in the name of “slum clearance,” eventually to replace it with the Chrysler Freeway and Lafayette Park, an upscale residential community that initially was occupied by mostly white residents and Interstate 375. It was located on Detroit’s near east side, bounded by Gratiot Avenue, Brush Street, the Detroit River, and the Grand Trunk railroad tracks, according to the Detroit Historical Society. Historians estimate that 100,000 people lived in the lower east side area.
11:00 a.m. • Frank Hayden Community Room
**Downriver Campus**

### Making Black America: Episode 1
2/1

Making Black America: Through the Grapevine is a four-part series hosted by Henry Louis Gates, Jr., that chronicles the vast social networks and organizations created by and for Black people—beyond the reach of the “White gaze.” Professor Gates sits with noted scholars, politicians, cultural leaders, and old friends to discuss this world behind the color line and what it looks like today.

1:00 p.m.-2:00 p.m. • Ray Mix Room

### Sounds from Africa and the Diaspora
2/7

Black History Month Kick Off at the Downriver Campus featuring sounds from Africa and the diaspora by D.J. Larry Faulkner. Come and join the fun! African American musicians and artists have developed and influenced classical music traditions, country and western music, pop music, and dance music such as disco, techno and house, among other genres and styles. Millions of people around the globe listen to and are touched by music that carries elements of African American musical traditions.

12:00 noon • Atrium

### Making Black America: Episode 2
2/8

1:00 p.m.-2:00 p.m. • Ray Mix Room

### Making Black America: Episode 2
2/14 & 2/15

1:00 p.m.-2:00 p.m. • Ray Mix Room

### Nanou Djiapo Cultural Arts, Inc. African Drummers and Dancers
2/20

“Nanou Djiapo” which literally means “Keep Together” as a culturally related, and traditionally bonded, artistic family. The group is widely known and admired as one of the premier youth & young adult African Drum & Dance groups locally and abroad, and is constantly in demand to perform.

12:00 noon • Atrium
2/21
Making Black America: Episode 4
1:00 p.m.-2:00 p.m. • Ray Mix Room

2/22
Making Black America: Episode 4
1:00 p.m.-2:00 p.m. • Ray Mix Room

2/28
Black Business Expo and Marketplace
11:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. • Atrium and Hallways

---

Eastern Campus

2/12
Nile Valley’s Ancient Kush and Ancient Kemet: The First Cradle of High Level Black Civilization
Nubia Wardford Polk holds a M.A. in Historic Archeology with a specialty in Archeology of the African World and is completing her Ph.D. Her involvement in archeological digs in Africa and South America along with primary research has resulted in the conclusions of the importance of ancient Kush and Kemet which predate Egypt. Mrs. Polk will share images that bring to life accomplishments of the Black inhabitants and rulers of the most ancient civilization in the world.
1:00 p.m. • Cooper Community Room

2/14
Sounds from Africa and the Diaspora
DJ Larry Faulkner provides sounds from Africa and the diaspora for your enjoyment. African American musicians and artists have developed and influenced classical music traditions, country and western music, pop music, and dance music such as disco, techno and house, among other genres and styles. Millions of people around the globe listen to and are touched by music that carries elements of African American musical traditions. Come and enjoy!
1:00 p.m. • Atrium

2/21
Nanou Djiapo Cultural Arts, Inc. African Drummers and Dancers
“Nanou Djiapo” which literally means “Keep Together” as a culturally related, and traditionally bonded, artistic family. The group is widely known and admired as one of the premier youth & young adult African Drum & Dance groups locally and abroad, and is constantly in demand to perform.
11:00 a.m. • Cooper Community Room
Artful Echoes: Commemorating African American History through Creativity
This workshop will focus on African American artists, encouraging participants to create pieces inspired by art, music and literature of the African American experience.
1:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m. • Cooper Community Room

Northwest Campus

Sounds from Africa and the Diaspora
DJ Larry Faulkner provides sounds from Africa and the diaspora for your enjoyment. African American musicians and artists have developed and influenced classical music traditions, country and western music, pop music, and dance music such as disco, techno and house, among other genres and styles. Millions of people around the globe listen to and are touched by music that carries elements of African American musical traditions. Come and enjoy!
1:00 p.m. • Atrium

Tutorial and Demonstration of West African Head Wrap
Famata Jebbeh Legemah will demonstrate the West African Head Wrap. This practices dates back to pre-colonial African history in sub-Saharan Africa, and head wraps were considered symbols of status, marriage, and family lineage. During the Transatlantic Slave Trade, they were one of the few cultural pieces enslaved Africans were able to bring to the Americas. Head wraps have been a timeless fashion trend in the lives of African women for centuries. Workshop space is limited. Please contact Will Sampson in the Denise Wellons-Glover Welcome Center.
11:00 a.m. • Denise Wellons-Glover Welcome Center

Prostate Cancer: Causes and Signs
Dr. Conrad Maitland, Urologist at Sinai-Grace Hospital and the Sherwood Medical Center on Detroit’s Westside will lecture on the root causes of prostate cancer among African American men. Q&A session to follow.
10:00 a.m. • Denise Wellons-Glover Welcome Center

Storytelling with Satori Shakoor
Hosted by founder and producer Satori Shakoor, The Secret Society Of Twisted Storytellers® is an award-winning, live curated storytelling event. Each month a new, exciting and diverse lineup of storytellers take the stage to tell their true and personal stories to an engaged audience. The stories are moving, raw and revealing; hilarious, human and healing.
11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. • Denise Wellons-Glover Welcome Center
Art Exhibit in the Brown and Juanita C. Ford Art Gallery
Mandisa Smith “The Art of Felting”
OPENING RECEPTION: TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2024 | 5:30 p.m.-7:00 p.m.
EXHIBITION: February 27 through April 26, 2024

District-Wide

Underground Railroad Bus Tour
Back by popular demand! Jamon Jordan, City of Detroit Historian, will lead a narrated bus tour of the Underground Railroad stops in Detroit. Learn about how Detroit was a pivotal part of the Underground Railroad, an informal network of safe houses and people willing to help runaway enslaved people. They adapted the language of the railroads to keep it secret. Hiding places — often taverns, homes and barns — were referred to as “stations.” Helpers were called “conductors,” and runaways were either “passengers” or “baggage.” From our many cultural and religious organizations to the numerous historic markers that have been dedicated over the years, the city has always been at the forefront of acknowledging the people, places and events that helped us earn the reputation as the Doorway to Freedom.
11:00 a.m. • Bus will leave the Curtis L. Ivery Downtown Campus.
Please call 313-496-2758 to reserve your space. FREE TO ALL!