Dear campus colleagues,

Thank you for choosing to present the CME “Bulletin Board in a Bag”: Black History Month in your area this February!

In this packet, and any attached documents, you will find everything you need to begin a great bulletin board.

**How to use**
We’ve provided several flyer-sized pages of information, intended to get your board started; researching and adding additional information that would be of most interest to your particular residents (relevant communities in their home states/nations, campus/community activities that appeal to their majors and hobbies) can help expand the board and improve its impact.

For the most part, the Board is just print and post ready. Color is obviously most eye-catching, but most of the graphics should be fine in black and white/grayscale if necessary. If we had it available at the time of publication, we’ve also included or attached information about campus/community events observing this month, that you can post as well. If there isn’t any, you can check our calendar ([www.du.edu/cme/cme_calendar.html](http://www.du.edu/cme/cme_calendar.html)) and/or with the relevant Joint Council student organizations ([www.du.edu/cme/joint_council.html](http://www.du.edu/cme/joint_council.html)) to see what events they have scheduled, and add them to your Board. And, consider making attending one of these events a program for your floor!

**Feedback**
To help us know where our boards have been, and how residents have responded to them, please email us ([igr@du.edu](mailto:igr@du.edu)) any/all of the following:

- Your name, hall and floor where the board is posted
- A photo or two of the board up on your floor
- A brief description of any reaction/feedback the board generated on your floor community,
- Any feedback you have about this board or ideas for other Inclusive Excellence-related identities/issues/observances we could provide for the future.

(And in the unfortunate event there’s any defacement or other negative reaction to the board, please follow your hall’s reporting procedures, and let us know.)

THANKS for sharing this important, and interesting, info with your residents!

Sincerely,
Center for Multicultural Excellence
[www.du.edu/cme](http://www.du.edu/cme)
facebook.com/DUCME
Presented by: UNIVERSITY of DENVER CENTER for MULTICULTURAL EXCELLENCE

For more information visit our website at: www.du.edu/cme
BLACK HISTORY MONTH

The observance can be traced back to 1926, at a time where black history had hardly made it into studies or textbooks.

Dr. Carter G. Woodson, born to parents who were former slaves, worked in the coal mines. He later went on to earn a Ph.D. from Harvard. In 1915, he along with other prominent figures established the Association for the Study of Afro-American Life and History. A year later, he founded the *Journal of Negro History* in hopes of better educating the public on the contribution of the African-American community. He is accredited for the inception of “Negro History Week” that eventually became Black History Month.
As a motivational speaker and a photographer, Eunique Jones Gibson recently realized that her lens can also be her microphone. For Black History Month, she wanted to create a campaign that would empower and excite young people about their history and their future in a creative and yet relatable way. She thought about her two sons and how they were both born during President Barack Obama's election and re-election. How awesome is that?! From there, she began to think about all of the individuals, past and current, who have and/or continue to blaze new trails and pave the way for the future. Because of Them, We Can. Her pictures are of young girls and boys representing prominent figures in the Black community throughout history and now, in order to bring awareness of their rich history.
Langston Hughes

Langston Hughes was an American poet, social activist, novelist, playwright, and columnist. Hughes, more than any other black poet or writer, recorded faithfully the nuances of black life and its frustrations. Although Hughes had trouble with both black and white critics, he was the first black American to earn his living solely from his writing and public lectures. It was Hughes' belief in humanity and his hope for a world in which people could sanely and with understanding live together that led to his decline in popularity in the racially turbulent latter years of his life. Unlike younger and more militant writers, Hughes never lost his conviction that "most people are generally good, in every race and in every country where I have been."

I, too, Sing America
“I, too, sing America.
I am the darker brother.
They send me to eat in the kitchen
When company comes,
    But I laugh,
    And eat well,
    And grow strong.

    Tomorrow,
    I’ll be at the table
When company comes.
Nobody’ll dare say to me,
“Eat in the kitchen,” then.

Besides,
They’ll see how beautiful I am
And be ashamed –

I, too, am America.”
Rev. Jesse Jackson

Civil rights leader and two-time Democratic presidential candidate Jesse Jackson (1941–) became one of the most influential African-Americans of the late 20th century. He rose to prominence working within Martin Luther King Jr.'s Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) and was at the Memphis hotel with King when he was assassinated. Through PUSH, the organization he founded in 1971, Jackson pressed for broader employment opportunities for African-Americans. During the 1980s and 1990s he negotiated the release of dozens of international hostages and prisoners. In his 1984 and 1988 presidential campaigns, Jackson won 16 state contests and millions of votes, making him the first viable African-American candidate for President.
Zora Neale Hurston

By combining anthropology and Black-American folklore, Zora Neale Hurston became an authority on the oral culture of Black America and a prominent author during the Harlem Renaissance, publishing dozens of short stories, plays, essays and novels. Her most famous novel, Their Eyes Were Watching God - published in 1937 - is a classic of American literature. Time magazine named it one of the “100 Best English-language Novels from 1923-2005,” and in 2005 the novel was made into a successful TV film. The development of African-American and Women’s Studies in the 1970s led to a resurgence of interest in Hurston’s work, and many recognize her influence in the writing of contemporary African-American writers like Ralph Ellison, Toni Morrison, and Alice Walker.
Sojourner Truth
A prominent abolitionist and women's rights activist. Born a slave in New York State, she had at least three of her children sold away from her. After escaping slavery, Truth embraced evangelical religion and became involved in moral reform and abolitionist work. She collected supplies for black regiments during the Civil War and immersed herself in advocating for freed people during the Reconstruction period. Truth was a powerful and impassioned speaker whose legacy of feminism and racial equality still resonates today. She is perhaps best known for her stirring "Ain't I a Woman?" speech, delivered at a women's convention in Ohio in 1851.

From “Ain’t I a Woman”

“That man over there says that women need to be helped into carriages and lifted over ditches, and to have the best place everywhere. Nobody ever helps me into carriages, or over mud-puddles, or gives me any best place! And ain't I a woman? Look at me! Look at my arm! I could have ploughed and planted, and gathered into barns, and no man could head me! And ain't I a woman? I could work as much and eat as much as a man- when I could get it- and bear the lash as well! And ain't I a woman? I have borne thirteen children, and seen them most all sold off to slavery, and when I cried out with my mother’s grief, none but Jesus heard me! And ain't I a woman?”
Rosa Parks

By refusing to give up her seat to a white man on a Montgomery, Alabama, city bus in 1955, black seamstress Rosa Parks (1913—2005) helped initiate the civil rights movement in the United States. The leaders of the local black community organized a bus boycott that began the day Parks was convicted of violating the segregation laws. Led by a young Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., the boycott lasted more than a year—during which Parks not coincidentally lost her job—and ended only when the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that bus segregation was unconstitutional. Over the next half-century, Parks became a nationally recognized symbol of dignity and strength in the struggle to end entrenched racial segregation.

Because of her, I can...
Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Martin Luther King Jr. (1929-1968) was a Baptist minister and social activist who played a key role in the American Civil Rights Movement from the mid-1950s until his assassination in 1968. Inspired by advocates of nonviolence such as Mahatma Gandhi, King sought equality for African Americans, the economically disadvantaged and victims of injustice through peaceful protest. He was the driving force behind watershed events such as the Montgomery Bus Boycott and the March on Washington, which helped bring about such landmark legislation as the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965. King was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964 and is remembered each year on Martin Luther King Jr. Day, a U.S. federal holiday since 1986.
Bayard Rustin

During his 60-year career as an activist, organizer and "troublemaker," Bayard Rustin formulated many of the strategies that propelled the American Civil Rights Movement. His passionate belief in Gandhi's philosophy of nonviolence drew Martin Luther King Jr. and other leaders to him in the 1940's and 50's; his practice of those beliefs drew the attention of the FBI and police. In 1963, Rustin brought his unique skills to the crowning glory of his civil rights career: his work organizing the March on Washington, the biggest protest America had ever seen. But his open homosexuality forced him to remain in the background, marking him again and again as a "brother outsider."
Supreme Court Decisions:

*Dred Scott v. Sandford (1857)*
- Decreed a slave was his master’s property and African Americans were not citizens; struck down the Missouri Compromise as unconstitutional.

*Plessy v. Ferguson (1896)*
- The Court stated that segregation was legal and constitutional as long as “facilities were equal” – the famous “separate but equal” segregation policy.

*Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka (1954)*
- Reversed Plessy v. Ferguson “separate but equal” ruling. “[S]egregation [in public education] is a denial of the equal protection of the laws.”

*Loving v. Virginia (1967)*
- This decision ruled that the prohibition on interracial marriage was unconstitutional. Sixteen states that still banned interracial marriage at the time were forced to revise their laws.

*Regents of the University of California v. Bakke (1978)*
- The decision stated that affirmative action was unfair if it led to reverse discrimination.

*Grutter v. Bollinger (2003)*
- The decision upheld affirmative action’s constitutionality in education, as long it employed a “highly individualized, holistic review of each applicant’s file” and did not consider race as a factor in a “mechanical way.”

*All information derived from infoplease.com*
An Obstacle for Progress...

Black History Month celebrates the accomplishments of the Black community and is a constant reminder of the progress that we are making as a society. It is also a reminder of all that still needs to be done; all the obstacles that are at times in the way of progress that still need to be overcome. Although our reality is sometimes a discouraging one as seen in these racial disparities in incarceration rates, the sky’s the limit for how much more change we can implement in our society.

Broken criminal justice system - Racial Disparities in Incarceration

- Incarceration rates disproportionately impact men of color: 1 in every 15 African American men and 1 in every 36 Hispanic men are incarcerated in comparison to 1 in every 106 white men. (http://www.ussc.gov)

- The U.S. Sentencing Commission stated that in the federal system, black of offenders receive sentences that are 10 percent longer than white offenders for the same crimes. (http://www.ussc.gov)

- The Sentencing Project reports that African Americans are 21 percent more likely to receive mandatory-minimum sentences than white defendants and are 20 percent more likely to be sentenced to prison. (http://www.sentencingproject.org)

- Voter laws that prohibit people with felony convictions from voting disproportionately impact men of color. An estimated 5.3 million men of color are denied the right to vote based on a felony conviction. 13 percent of African American men are denied the right to vote. Felony-disenfranchisement policies have led to 11 states denying the right to vote to more than 10 percent of their African American population. (http://www.ussc.gov)

- “Disparity is a result of the US’ war on drugs – started by President Ronald Reagan in the 1980’s. In 1988, blacks were arrested on drug charges at five times the rate of whites. By 1996, the rate of drug admissions to state prison for black men was 13 times greater than the rate for white men. This is despite the fact that African Americans use drugs at roughly the same rate as white Americans.” (Heather Schoenfeld, assistant professor at Ohio State University)
Contributors to the DU Community: Black Student Alliance (BSA)

The University of Denver’s Black Student Alliance is an organization dedicated to promoting cultural awareness and solidarity on campus. One of the organization's main focuses is to foster the personal development of the membership, and to encourage them to become active community contributors. Another goal is to provide a stable support system that the members can rely on. By building opportunities for internal and external collaborations, the Black Student Alliance has been able to make significant strides towards fulfilling its mission. www.facebook.com/groups/DUBSA/

BSA meets every other Thursday at 6:30 PM in the JMAC Classroom
Black History Month Events

Feburary 6: The Butler Movie
We will be partnering with DUPB Films on this award winning movie.

Feburary 7: We Speak Talent Show
We will be showcasing the talent of our own BSA and DU student body.

Feburary 13: Spokentainment Poetry Slam
We will be partnering with LSA and presenting some DU talent as well as local Denver talent.

Feburary 21: Stroll & Tell
We will be partnering with SLB to highlight NPHC and MGC organizations with some talent and some information.

Feburary 27: Tribute Speaker & Taste of Africa
We will be partnering with DUPB to present our Tribute speaker with the topic "MLK in my living room: The Albany Movement during the King Years."