



February 2022 Newsletter



Check out the latest from the Office of Diversity, Inclusion & Equity!



February is National Black History Month, a time to reflect on and celebrate the many contributions that Black Americans have made to the nation and the world. The history of the celebration can be traced back to Harvard-trained historian Carter G. Woodson and the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History (ASNLH) and the creation of Negro History Week in 1925. The first celebration, held in February 1926 during the week of both Abraham Lincoln's and Frederick Douglass' birthdays, was immediately impactful. By 1950, the week had become central to African American life and more attention was brought to the celebration every year. The celebration expanded to a full month in 1976 for the nation's bicentennial, with President Gerald Ford urging all Americans to "seize the opportunity to honor the too-often neglected accomplishments of black Americans in every area of endeavor throughout our history." Every president since has issued a Black History Month proclamation, and the ASNLH, now the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH), continues to promote the celebration of Black history and accomplishments all year long.

For more information on National Black History month, visit <https://blackhistorymonth.gov/>.

Image: Metcalfe, Ralph H, and Jonas Dovydenas. *Jazz Alley, 50th and Langley, Chicago, Illinois*. Illinois Chicago, 1977. Chicago, Illinois. Photograph. <https://www.loc.gov/item/afc1981004.099/>.

Celebrating Black Excellence Month 2022



LEHIGH
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OFFICE OF
MULTICULTURAL
AFFAIRS

In honor of Black History Month, Lehigh University's Office of Multicultural Affairs celebrates Black Excellence. We acknowledge and celebrate the incredible contributions that Black folks across the globe have made to our planet. We honor and praise the sacrifices, the struggles, and the joys that Black folks have endured and continue to endure to deliver freedom & justice for all. There are plenty of events yet to come this month including:

- Community M-Room with Dr. Donald Outing: The State of Antiracism at Lehigh, Thursday, February 17, 11:30-12:30 PM (via Zoom)
- Young, Gifted and Black: Artist Talk and Opening Reception (in collaboration with L.U. Art Galleries), Tuesday, February 22, 6:00-8:30 PM
- Elle Simone Scott: How Food is the Gateway to Culture and How Elle Displays Her Authentic Self in the Kitchen and Beyond (in collaboration with Lafayette College), Tuesday, February 22, 6:30 PM (via Zoom)
- Community M-Room with Scott Ellsworth: The Tulsa Massacre— Causes, Cover-Ups and the Continuing Fight for Justice, Thursday, February 24, 12:00-1:00 PM (via Zoom)

For more information on these sessions, or to sign up, visit <https://bit.ly/BlackExcellence2022>.



Renee Washington, '16G, leveraged her experience as a graduate assistant coach with Lehigh women's soccer into an impressive career as a sports reporter, CEO, author and speaker. Washington took the skills she learned at Lehigh as a student and a coach, and put them toward learning, growing and innovating to meet her goals. "Lehigh was the time...I was able to focus on what I wanted in a career moving forward," she said. "[Coaches] Eric Lambinus and Amy Hough were so great in supporting me through that process. I've always enjoyed coaching – I've coached youth soccer for many years – but I also knew I wanted to be a sports reporter. They encouraged me to get involved on campus," Washington says. "It was those two years at Lehigh when I honestly committed to pursue being a sports reporter." Read more about Renee's journey in the full [Lehigh Athletics story here](#).

Check out Diversity, Inclusion & Equity offerings this month!

LUally delivers skills-based, educational opportunities for the Lehigh community, while centering the philosophy that allyship is a continuous process that looks different for everyone. This semester’s first session is “LBGTQ 101” on Wednesday, February 16 from 12:00-1:30 PM with in-person or virtual options available. Sign up at go.lehigh.edu/lually. Email pridecenter@lehigh.edu with questions or for needed accommodations.



Young, Gifted and Black, The Lumpkin-Bocuzzi Family Collection of Contemporary Art, showcases works, in a variety of mediums, by emerging artists of African descent, alongside works by established artists who have paved the way for the younger generation. A public reception and artist talk will be held at the LUAG Main Gallery on February 22 from 6-8 PM. The exhibit runs until May 27. For more information visit www.luag.org or email luag@lehigh.edu.

Image: Tunji Adeniyi-Jones. “Blue Dancer” (detail), 2017. Oil on canvas. ©Tunji Adeniyi-Jones

Join the Office of Jewish Student Life and the Office of Multicultural Affairs for a **Kasher Soul Food Dinner** in honor of Black Excellence Month! All the food will be homemade—come break bread with us on Thursday February 24 from 5:30-7:30 PM at the Jewish Student Center, 233 W Packer Ave. Space is limited, so you must register in advance at <https://bit.ly/BEMsouldinner>

Campus Cup Fest is back! The Center for Gender Equity and the Office of Sustainability are proud to launch this year’s menstrual cup giveaway on Thursday February 17 from 1:00-4:00 PM in the Clayton University Center room 308. Sign up for a free menstrual cup, learn more about the CGE, the Office of Sustainability and other campus partners, including EcoReps, the Office of Multicultural Affairs, the Pride Center and more! For more info or for accommodations, please email amca21@lehigh.edu.