



The Village Demands

CELEBRATE
BLACK
HISTORY
MONTH

Reflecting On Black History Month: Remembering Our Purpose

Entering Black History Month, we reflect on our purpose, plan, and pursuit. As an organization that envisions a system of higher education absent of anti-Blackness, we remember, honor, and call forth the histories and dreams of our ancestors as we walk in the legacies that we continue creating today. Remembering the fight for liberation Black and African Americans have for so long held, we reaffirm *The Village Demands'* [mission](#) to:

Address the state of education for African Americans. Through Education Action, Political Action, and a Statewide Equity Institute, we are committed to fostering the transition from anti-Blackness to a pro-Black educational system.

Our Work

To see a system of education that honors and respects Black Americans, and allows us to be our full selves, the system must be transformed. *The Village Demands* (TVD) has a three-pronged approach to moving forth this effort and how you can participate in this work.

Engage Advocacy and Action

Mobilizing a coalition focused on informing federal, state, local and institutional policies and regulations that support and serve the well-being, communicate the needs, and that enfranchise and empower the Black and African American community.

Start by collectively querying the issues that exist within your institution. How

might your institution be disenfranchising Black students? Do you know the concerns of Black students? How are you currently serving Black students? Understanding the root cause of inequity for Black and African Americans in education will help to identify and set advocacy goals and a plan of action for your institution. Check out a [few of our resources](#) that provide some reports and quick facts about Black students in California's Community Colleges.

Focus on Equity

Increasing racial literacy, critical consciousness and cultural fluency in educational institutions and organizations.

Participate in [The Statewide Equity Institute](#). This transformative experience is an opportunity to assess your institution's policies and practices related to race, gender, and equity. We'll invite equity practitioners to share their narratives of trial and triumph, and share some strategies for success. And, finally the Statewide Equity Institute can provide your organization with uniquely designed professional development experiences for equity.

Take Education Action

Examining and interrogating systems, structures, actions, policies, procedures, and practices that impede the success of Black students and proposing new ideas, strategies, and approaches to advance the collective agenda of Black faculty, staff, and students.

Take a deep look into your institution's policies and practices. In which ways might inequity be embedded systemically? Explore the ways in which anti-blackness is pervasive in education and define a new path forward. Review our [Call To Action](#) and consider embedding some of these strategies and principles into your organizational practices.

As we remember our purpose, we reflect on these words of wisdom from Malcolm X: "Education is the passport to the future, for tomorrow belongs for those who prepare for it today." So, [join us](#) in preparing for our futures by addressing the state of education for Black and African American students in California's Community College system!

Article by: Emerald Templeton, EdD
Las Positas College

Learn more about our professionals

The Village Demands Statewide Coalition on Black American Affairs

[JOIN our Coalition](#)

[Email](#)

[Our Website](#)

Black Student Success



Haja Hidra

Fashion Designer & Entrepreneur



Fashion Designer and Businesswoman, Haja Hidra, symbolizes Black Student Success. Through the encouragement of her professors at San Diego Mesa College, she refused to let extreme personal tragedies and hardship stand in her way. Born in Sierra Leone, Haja Hidra and her brother fled the country as orphaned children due to civil war and violence. While fleeing from country-to-country Haja suffered physical hardships and numerous surgeries.

Eventually, Haja and her brother were able to immigrate to the United States as teenagers. Despite all of her health setbacks, Haja was determined to follow her dream of becoming a fashion designer. She enrolled at San Diego Mesa College and quickly earned degrees in Business and Fashion Design. Haja credits her professors in the Fashion program for encouraging her to persist and her Communication Studies professor for giving her the confidence to share her talents and inspirational story with others. Haja is now a Fashion Designer who creates commissioned individualized couture. She sells her clothing online, in San Diego stores, and in markets. She also sells Black History Month gifts. Haja hopes to one day own her own fashion boutique full of clothing made by people in factories that she hopes to own. Haja shares, "My professors believed in me and they encouraged me and that is what kept me going in school when I wanted to give up. People at San Diego Mesa College took a lot of time to help me."

Learn more about this wonderful student and her experiences at the following links.

[From Hardship to Entrepreneur](#)
[Fashion Designer Wows](#)

You can learn more about Haja as an entrepreneur by visiting her websites:

[Abydara Fashion](#)
[Black History Month Gifts](#)

Governor's 2022-2023 Budget Proposal

The usual January anticipation circled around
[Governor Newsom's January Budget](#)



Proposal Summary submitted to the state legislature and the citizens of California. However most political advocacy groups had already made their predictions on the budget categories that would meet their lobbying efforts. As usual, the hefty higher education budget that includes all segments of higher education including community colleges proposed a \$39.6 Billion investment in the system. Where are those funds allocated? Mainly to the CSU and UC systems \$304.1 million and \$307.3 million

respectively to increase the number of California residents and graduation rates over the next 5 years. The community college system proposal includes a \$65 million one-time funding to implement AB 928 (Berman) signed into law by Governor Newsome in October 2021 to help streamline transfer by creating a single general education pathway and a common course numbering system across the community colleges (sound familiar)? Other funding includes \$100 million to support the Student Success Completion Grant Program; \$20 million one-time investment to support emergency financial assistance grants to eligible AB 540 students and \$10 million in ongoing funding to diversity community college faculty, staff, and administrators. Finally, the budget includes a \$1.1 million ongoing Proposition 98 General Fund investment to support the expansion of African American Male Education Network and Development (A2MEND).

We must applaud our courageous law makers for making this investment in our Black community but is this enough? The State of Higher Education for Black Californians, published in February 2021 by the Campaign for College Opportunity found some staggering statistics that would require reconsideration of the proposed funding to assistance African American students and males in general. Sixty-four percent of Black undergraduates in California attend a California Community College (CCC).¹ According to the same data source, 70% of Black males and 61% females attend CCC. However, only six percent of Black men and seven percent of Black women who enrolled in the California community Colleges in 2017-18 earned an award or degree within three years.² A follow up report published in 2021 also by Campaign for College Opportunity, entitled Follow the Money, found the evidence that *“Systematic underinvestment in Black degree attainment did not happen by accident. Underinvestment and a lack of support for Black students to both pursue and graduate with a college degree has been reinforced by a fundamentally discriminatory funding model and higher education structure that disadvantages Black Californians. It is time for our state leaders to take responsibility for this racist funding structure and take urgent action to equitize funding so that Black students can thrive and have the same opportunities afforded to other Californians.”*

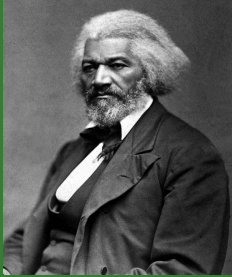
The budget process has only just begun. Legislative hearings will continue throughout the coming weeks and months with a highly anticipated May revise by the Governor that will reflect the battles fought during the preceding months. Where do you stand on creating an equitable budget that reflects the realities of our Black Students? If you are wondering, what can you do then I would suggest that you start by writing a letter to your respective assembly and senate representative and ask them to increase the funding to support Black students in the community college system. Your voice matters!

1. Source: National Center for Education Statistics, Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (2020), 12-month Enrollment Component (2018-2019), Table EFFY2019: Undergraduate. Available from: <https://nces.ed.gov/ipeds/use-the-data>

2. Source: Cal-PASS Plus. (2021). Student Success Metrics (All Students-Cohort View). [Data Dashboard]. Retrieved from: <https://www.calpassplus.org/LaunchBoard/Student-Success-Metrics>

Inspirational Quote

“Some know the value of education by having it. I know it's value by not having it.”



Dr. Shakerra Carter

Appointed to Serve as

Vice President of Student Services

for

San Diego College of Continuing Education

Dr. Shakerra Carter is Vice President of Student Services at San Diego College of Continuing Education in San Diego, California. She has spent her career developing and implementing innovative programs in student services area to enable success for all students, particularly for marginalized students. "Dr. Carter previously served for more than five years as SDCCD's Dean for Outreach, Student Affairs, and Pre-Enrollment Services. She was also Title IX Compliance Coordinator and a member of the Senior Leadership team for the Vice Chancellor of Student Services for more than six years. Prior experience includes working at Grossmont College as an Interim Supervisor for Counseling and Assessment, and an Interim Director of Student Activities. Dr. Carter also served as the Lead Transfer Admissions Counselor at San Diego State University (SDSU) for four years. She has earned a Doctorate of Education in Educational Leadership from SDSU and a Master of Arts in Educational Leadership (with a specialization in Student Affairs) also from SDSU." [Learn more about Dr. Carter's appointment.](#)

Congratulations to Dr. Carter!



Dr. BJ Snowden

Appointed to Serve as

Interim Associate Vice President of Equity, Institutional Effectiveness, and Innovation

for

American River College

With more than two decades of leadership experience rooted in advocacy and social justice, Dr. BJ Snowden has been appointed Interim Associate Vice President of Equity, Institutional Effectiveness and Innovation at American River College in Sacramento, California.

Dr. Snowden formally served as the Dean of the West Sacramento Center at Sacramento City College and as Interim Vice President of Educational Services and Student Success with the Los Rios Community College District. Dr. Snowden is a community college and California State University success story. Using his experience as a community college and CSU student to help frame his leadership perspective, Dr. Snowden is sensitive to the needs of underserved communities and has spent his entire career promoting diversity and social justice for students of all backgrounds.

Over his 20 years of experience working higher education, he has served as an Academic Senate President; developed award winning first-year-experience curriculum; and has worked to expand statewide educational programs for justice involved students.

Dr. Snowden earned a Doctorate in International & Multicultural Education with an emphasis in Racial Justice from the University of San Francisco, a Master of Arts in Educational Technology from Pepperdine University and a Bachelor of Arts degree in Radio, TV, and Film from San Jose State University.

Congratulations to Dr. Snowden!

Celebrate Black History Month

Learn How California Community Colleges Honor Black History Month

Chabot Las Positas Colleges
College of San Mateo
Riverside Community College District
Pan African Film Festival
San Diego Mesa College
San Diego Miramar College
San Diego City College
San Diego Community College District



ONLINE EVENT REGISTER TODAY:
blackbrownsummit.eventbrite.com



Black & Brown Career Excellence Summit

Thursday, February 24, 2022
9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Friday, February 25, 2022
9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.



We are excited to invite
our community partners
to the first
Black and Brown Career
Excellence Summit!



Participants will engage with
employers, learn about pathways to
internships, and be introduced to jobs
that are available now.

[Please click on the image above to learn more about this great conference.](#)



OAKLAND BLACK COLLEGE EXPO™

- GET ACCEPTED TO COLLEGE ON THE SPOT *
- RECEIVE SCHOLARSHIPS ON THE SPOT *
- COLLEGE APPLICATION FEES WAIVED *
- PLUS SURPRISE CELEBRITY GUEST APPEARANCES

*NOT APPLICABLE TO ALL COLLEGES
+ TRANSCRIPTS NEEDED/ SOME SCHOOLS REQUIRE ACT/SAT SCORES

JOIN IN DURING OUR SEMINARS:

- 411 FOR THE STUDENT ATHLETE
 - HOW TO FIND MONEY FOR COLLEGE
 - HOW TO START A BUSINESS
 - WHY ATTEND AN HBCU
- PLUS, WIN SCHOLARSHIPS, CASH, AND PRIZES

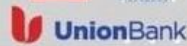
SCHOLARSHIP DEADLINE: 2/14

BRINGING A GROUP?
EMAIL US AT GROUPS@NCRFOUNDATION.ORG

FEBRUARY 26, 2022

@ OAKLAND MARRIOTT

10am- 3pm Expo and 3-5pm Aftershow



Register today at [NCRFoundation.org](https://www.NCRFoundation.org)



National Council on
Black American Affairs

Virtual

SPRING CONFERENCE

**REMEMBERING SANKOFA:
STRIVING FOR GREATNESS
IN A NEW DAWN**

MARCH 18-19, 2022

**TO REGISTER VISIT:
[BIT.LY/WRCBAASPRING22](https://bit.ly/wrcbaaspring22)
\$100 MEMBER
\$150 NON-MEMBERS**

FOR MORE INFO EMAIL/VISIT:
wrcbaa2020@gmail.com
wrcbaa-ncbaa.org

DISRUPTING RACISM

Through The Lens of the Arts

Presented by:

Dr. Ronald C. McCurdy
University of Southern California
Professor of Music and Assistant Dean
of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion



For further information, please contact:

Jamila DeCarli
jdecarli@sdccd.edu

Date: **Friday, February 25th**

Time: **12:00 - 1:30 pm**

Zoom Link: **CLICK HERE TO REGISTER OR SCAN:**



Did You Know?

Did you know that Carter G. Woodson advocated to have Black History Month in February because Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln were born during this month?

In Case You Missed It

[Click here to subscribe to our YouTube Channel!](#)

Connect with
The Village Demands Statewide Coalition
on Black American Affairs

[JOIN our Coalition](#)

[Our Website](#)

[Email](#)



Inspirational Quote

"You must never be fearful of what you are doing when it is right ."

- Rosa Parks