UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI

CENTER for GLOBAL BLACK STUDIES

MIAMI

THIS WEEK AT CGBS: FEBRUARY 09 - FEBRUARY 23

The Center for Global Black Studies (CGBS) is a hub of Black intellectual life at the U, and the CGBS Newsletter is your resource to stay up-to-date with upcoming events. We invite you to join us in our mission to foster networks of critical scholarship and intellectual exchange among our students, faculty, staff, and local and global partners and communities.

FROM THE DESK OF THE INTERIM DIRECTOR
AFRICA FORUM | MARCH 5-6, 2026
STUDENT SPOTLIGHT
CENTER HAPPENINGS
WRITE ON SITE - EVERY FRIDAY
JOIN OUR VOLUNTEER TEAM!
CAMPUS & COMMUNITY EVENTS

FROM THE DESK OF DR. EDMUND ABAKA, INTERIM DIRECTOR

BLACK HISTORY MONTH : STILL IMPORTANT?

100 years and counting, from the time the father of Black History, Dr. Carter G. Woodson, created Negro History Week, which he complemented later with the establishment of the field of African American Studies, and the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History (now the Association for the Study of African American Life and History), through its evolution into Black History Month during the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s, February has celebrated something special for Black people. For me, it is the indomitable spirit of a people who have survived and thrived through life-defying and extremely challenging historical conjunctures: Enslavement, Freedom, Reconstruction, Jim Crow, Civil Rights, and Beyond.

It is a highly textured, multi-layered history which is as sumptuous as it is tragic in some sense, as rich and pregnant with meaning, as is confounding and perplexing, and as impressive as it is sometimes difficult to fathom (and so some people may even speak of histories, and they wouldn't be far off the mark). And through it all, the Black experience has yielded some astounding achievements, vibrant in their emotions and compelling in their magnitude. Some of those achievements still boggle the mind, given the circumstances under which they were made.

The point of Black History Month, then, is to celebrate Black achievement and give visibility to the people and organizations who have been creating change before and during these one hundred or so years, sometimes under indescribable odds, yet doing amazing things. More importantly, continued engagement with history helps us to understand and give context for the complex present (given the circumstances) in which we live.

Former U.S. President, Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass, were born in February so is February important as a marker for Black History? I leave you to be the judge. Let me end my brief note on this:

> *"There is no more powerful force than a people steeped in their history. And there is no higher cause than honoring our struggle and ancestors by remembering."*
> *- Lonnie G. Bunch III, Director of the Smithsonian Institution, at the opening of the National Museum of African American History and Culture in Washington, D.C., in 2016.*

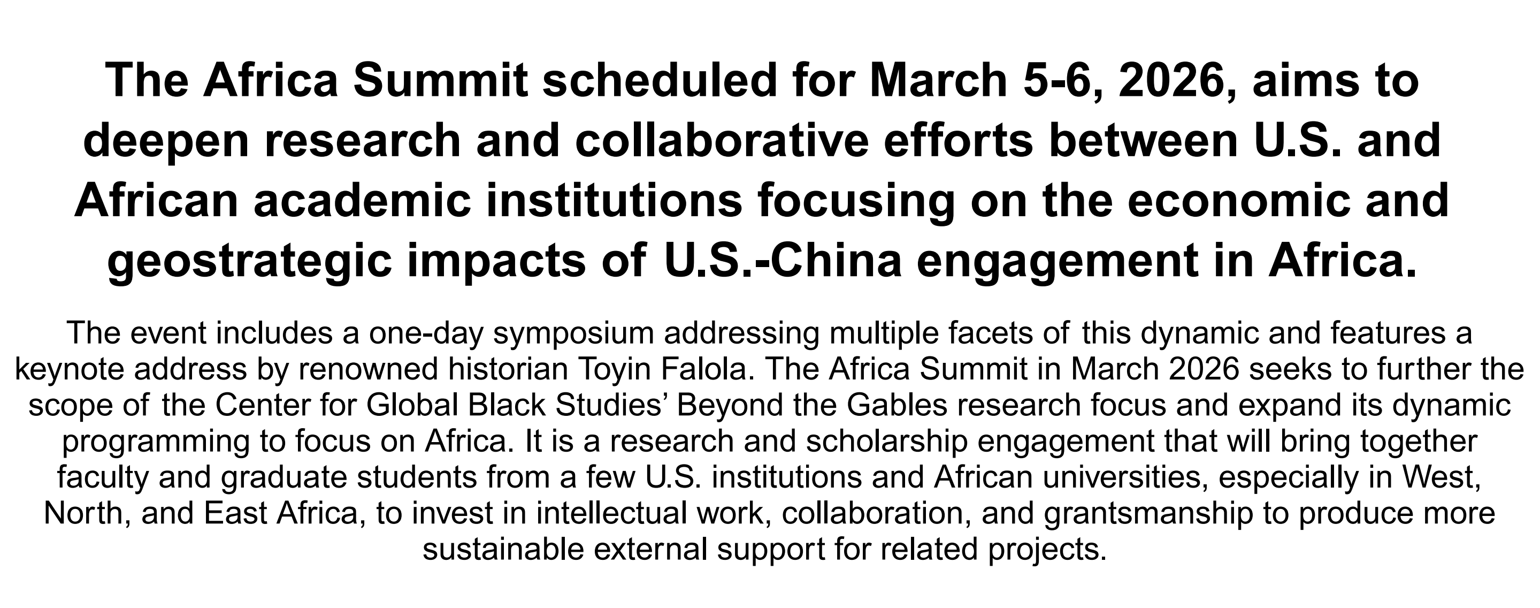
Sincerely

Dr. Edmund Abaka

Dr. Edmund Abaka, Interim Director
University of Miami, Center for Global Black Studies

UPCOMING EVENTS

Featured Event


AFRICA FORUM 2026: CHINA AND THE UNITED STATES IN AFRICA: A NEW "COLD WAR?"
MIAMI
THE CENTER FOR GLOBAL BLACK STUDIES PRESENTS
KEYNOTE SPEAKER:
PROFESSOR TOYIN FALOLA

Sponsored by
The Center for Global Black Studies
The History Department
University of Miami College of Arts & Sciences

MARCH 5, 2026 | 4:00 P.M. - 5:30 P.M.
Graduate Student Professionalization Workshop
5202 University Drive, Merrick Bldg. Rm. 306 Coral Gables, FL 33124

MARCH 6, 2026 | 9:00 A.M. - 5:30 P.M.
International Panel Discussion on China & US in Africa
Frost Institute for Chemistry and Molecular Science
1201 Memorial Drive, Coral Gables, FL 33146

The Jacob and Frances Sanger Mossiker Chair in the Humanities and a Distinguished Teaching Professor at the University of Texas at Austin.

The Africa Summit scheduled for March 5-6, 2026, aims to deepen research and collaborative efforts between U.S. and African academic institutions focusing on the economic and geostrategic impacts of U.S.-China engagement in Africa.

The event includes a one-day symposium addressing multiple facets of this dynamic and features a keynote address by renowned historian Toyin Falola. The Africa Summit in March 2026 seeks to further the scope of the Center for Global Black Studies' Beyond the Gables research focus and expand its dynamic programming to focus on Africa. It is a research and scholarship engagement that will bring together faculty and graduate students from a few U.S. institutions and African universities, especially in West, North, and East Africa, to invest in intellectual work, collaboration, and grantsmanship to produce more sustainable external support for related projects.

In the first year (2026), the focus will be on the economic and geostrategic significance of US-China engagement in Africa, with particular attention to its environmental and health impacts. A capacity-building workshop for graduate students and junior faculty will be built into the program, and a robust publication output will be the intended outcome, supplemented with related conference presentations. This two-day forum will be followed by an Africa Summit project proposal that is being formulated to apply for AN external grant later this year, for a longer, more engaging interrogation of the themes covered in the symposium.

For more information, visit here.

University of Miami | School of Education and Human Development

Invitation to a Historic First for SEHD

Thursday,February12,2026 | LakesideExpoComplex | Full-daycelebration

Join us for a one-of-a-kind experience at the University of Miami and be part of a global movement using innovation and AI to create real-world impact.

On Thursday, February 12, at the Lakeside Expo Complex, the School of Education and Human Development will host a full-day event focused on human-centered AI, social innovation, and societal impact.

UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI
SCHOOL of EDUCATION & HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

RSVP

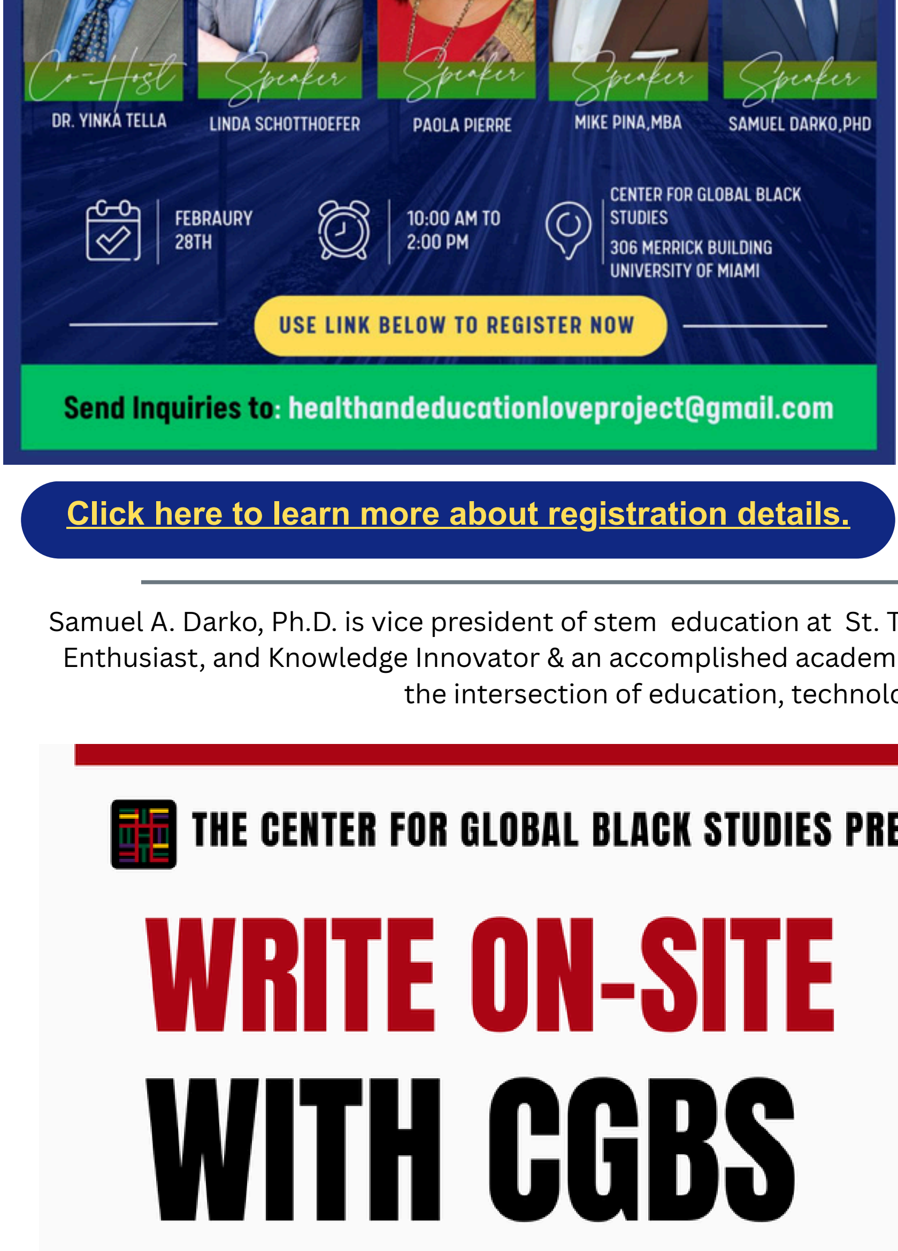
Seating is limited

Keynote Address and Panel Discussion (9:30 - 12 PM)
Keynote:10AM | PanelDiscussion : 11AM

Dr. Nam Ju Kim, Director of the AI Institute at Yonsei University—one of Asia's leading research institutions—will examine the role of artificial intelligence in supporting human development across the lifespan. Faculty experts and industry partners will join Dr. Kim in a conversation through an interdisciplinary panel.

Hult Prize Regional Competition (1:30 - 5 PM)
Welcome:2PM | FormerHultParticipant'sKeynote:2:35PM | Competition: 3 PM

Qualifying teams will pitch their socially responsible startup ideas to a panel of judges. Winning teams will represent the University of Miami in the national rounds of the Hult Prize competition, the "world's largest student competition for social good."


The Center for Global Black Studies
HELP
Health and Education Love Project
UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI
CENTER for GLOBAL BLACK STUDIES
BLACK HISTORY BRUNCH AND CAPACITY BUILDING WORKSHOP FOR NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS
Co-Host
Speaker
Speaker
Speaker
Speaker
DR. YINKA TELLA
LINDA SCHOTTHOEFER
PAOLA PIERRE
MIKE PINA,MBA
SAMUEL DARKO,PHD
USE LINK BELOW TO REGISTER NOW

TOPICS TO BE COVERED

- THE NONPROFIT AI PLAYBOOK: CAPACITY BUILDING FOR REAL WORLD IMPACT
- TURN AI INTO STAFF CAPACITY- AUTOMATE BUSYWORK, SHARPEN DESCISIONS, AND STRENGTHEN REPORTING, OUTPUTS, AND EFFICIENCY
- BRANDING AND MARKETING YOUR NONPROFIT: THE AI ADVANTAGE
- NONPROFIT COMPLIANCE AND GRANT-WRITING TIPS

FEBRAURY 28TH
10:00 AM TO 2:00 PM
CENTER FOR GLOBAL BLACK STUDIES
306 MERRICK BUILDING
UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI

Send Inquiries to: healthandeducationloveproject@gmail.com

Click here to learn more about registration details.

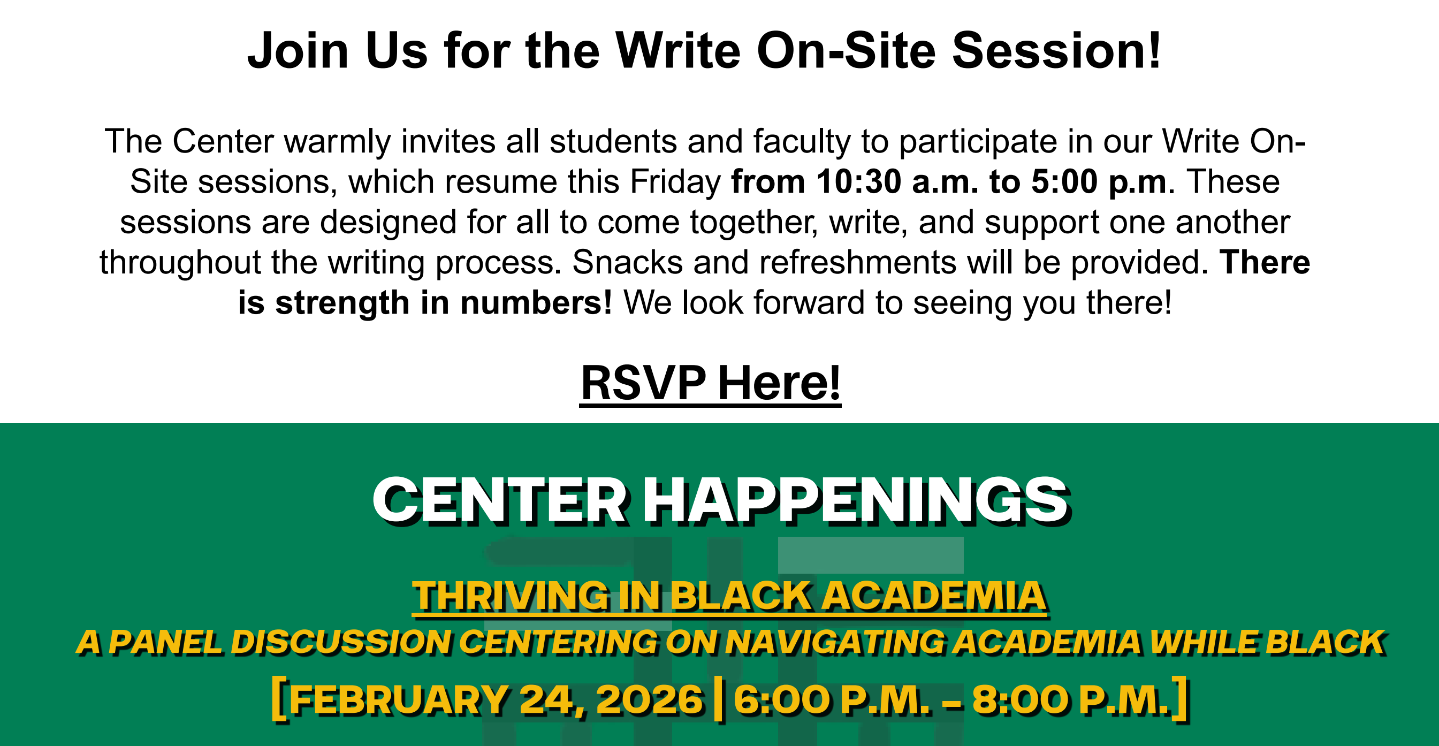
Black History Brunch and Capacity Building Workshop

The Health and Education Love Project (H.E.L.P.) is proud to announce a strategic partnership with the University of Miami's Center for Global African Studies for the third annual edition of the Black History Brunch and Capacity Building Workshop for Non-Profit Organizations. **Scheduled for February 28, 2026, from 10:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M.**, this event combines cultural celebration and professional empowerment. Set against the backdrop of Black History Month's closing day, the gathering will take place at the Center for Black Studies, located in the Merrick Building, Room 306, on the University of Miami campus.

As the philanthropic landscape evolves, local organizations face the dual challenge of maintaining rigorous compliance while adopting cutting-edge technology. This workshop is designed to provide non-profit leaders with the technical expertise and administrative "know-how" required to thrive in 2026.

"By merging the rich cultural heritage of Black History Month with future-focused skills like AI integration and grant compliance, we are ensuring our community organizations don't just survive, but lead," says Dr. Oluyinka Tella, spokesperson for H.E.L.P.

Samuel A. Darko, Ph.D. is vice president of stem education at St. Thomas University. He is an Academic Leader, AI Enthusiast, and Knowledge Innovator & an accomplished academic administrator, devoted leader who thrives at the intersection of education, technology, and innovation.


THE CENTER FOR GLOBAL BLACK STUDIES PRESENTS
WRITE ON-SITE WITH CGBS
EVERY FRIDAY

10:30 am - 5 pm
Merrick Building, Room 306

Join Us for the Write On-Site Session!

The Center warmly invites all students and faculty to participate in our Write On-Site sessions, which resume this Friday **from 10:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m**. These sessions are designed for all to come together, write, and support one another throughout the writing process. Snacks and refreshments will be provided. **There is strength in numbers!** We look forward to seeing you there!

RSVP Here!

CENTER HAPPENINGS

THRIVING IN BLACK ACADEMIA

A PANEL DISCUSSION CENTERING ON NAVIGATING ACADEMIA WHILE BLACK

[FEBRUARY 24, 2026 | 6:00 P.M. - 8:00 P.M.]

2026 CGBS & UMBAS SCHOLARSHIP RECEPTION

JOIN US FOR AN EVENING OF CONNECTION, REFLECTION, AND CELEBRATION AS WE INVEST IN THE NEXT GENERATION OF CANES

[FEBRUARY 26, 2026 | 5:00 P.M. - 7:00 P.M.]

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

THE CGBS STUDENT SPOTLIGHT IS A NEWSLETTER SEGMENT FOR HIGHLIGHTING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND RESEARCH OF STUDENT FELLOWS OF CGBS RESEARCH GRANTS.

India McCray

This issue's student spotlight features India McCray, a second-year Clinical Psychology PhD student from Louisville, Kentucky. McCray's research focuses on the mental, behavioral, and physical health effects of racism, with particular attention to vicarious racism, a term she describes as "indirect exposure to racism through media, social networks, and community experiences."

Through this work, McCray hopes to inform culturally responsive prevention and intervention efforts, influence policy through empirical research, and promote the use of valid and equitable measurement tools for marginalized communities. We interviewed McCray to learn more about what led her to pursue Psychology and how her experience in Miami has further shaped her research on vicarious racism. ***You can view her interview here!***

JOIN OUR TEAM

CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

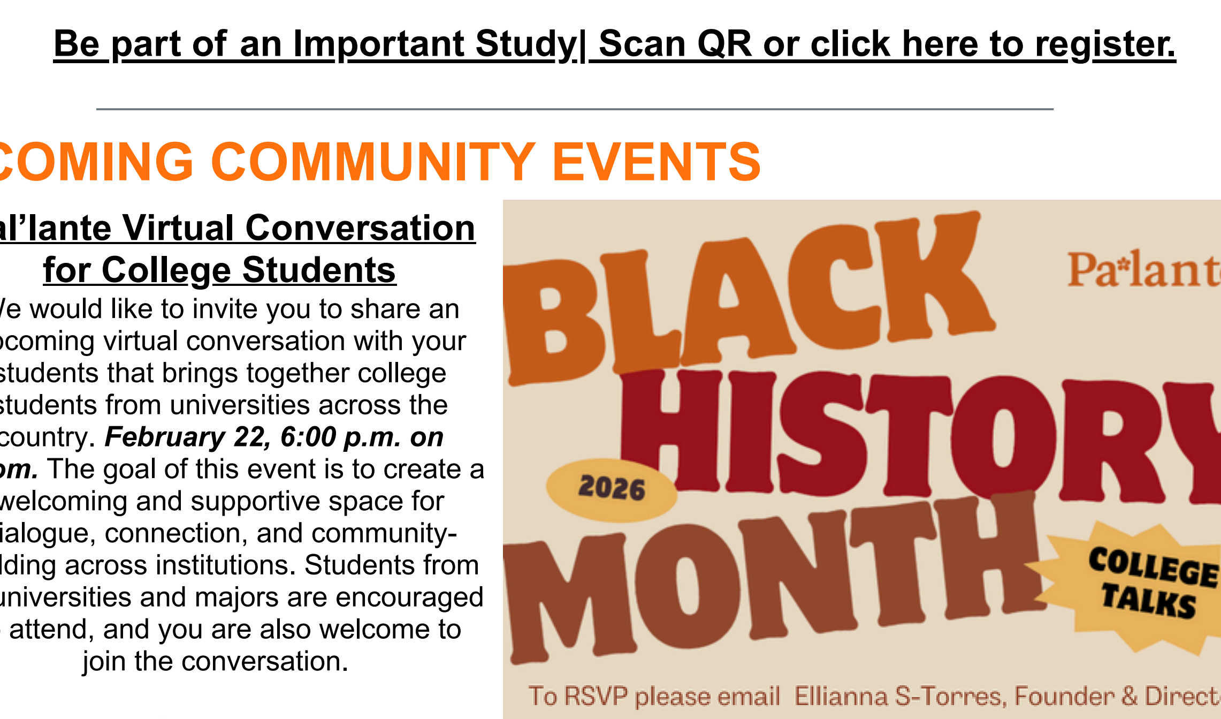
ARE YOU PASSIONATE ABOUT EVENT PLANNING?
WANT TO ENHANCE YOUR SKILLS FOR SHAPING CGBS EVENTS?
WE ARE CURRENTLY LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS!

Join us and become part of a vibrant team where your input can create a lasting difference. Together, we can organize remarkable events while also cultivating vital office management skills. This opportunity is not solely about gaining experience; it's about fostering a community that flourishes through collaboration and collective success. Let's join forces to make a meaningful impact and inspire positive change.

The Center for Global Black Studies

Click here to join our team!

UPCOMING CAMPUS EVENTS



Our Health is Our Future

Join Our Study Group on Breast Cancer Disparities among Black People

Help us learn about the factors contributing to a higher burden of cancer among Black people:
Caribbean and West Indian people (Dominicans, Haitians, Jamaicans, Trinidadians etc) and African Americans, Africans

Who is Eligible:

- Women and men 18 years and older
- Women and men diagnosed with, or a history of cancer
- Women and men who have no history of cancer

Compensation:
Participants can receive up to $50

Scan the QR code to participate:

IRB Approval Number #20160983

SANTE NOU SE AVNI NOU
SYLVESTER COMPREHENSIVE CANCER CENTER
UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI HEALTH SYSTEM
UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI MILLER SCHOOL of MEDICINE

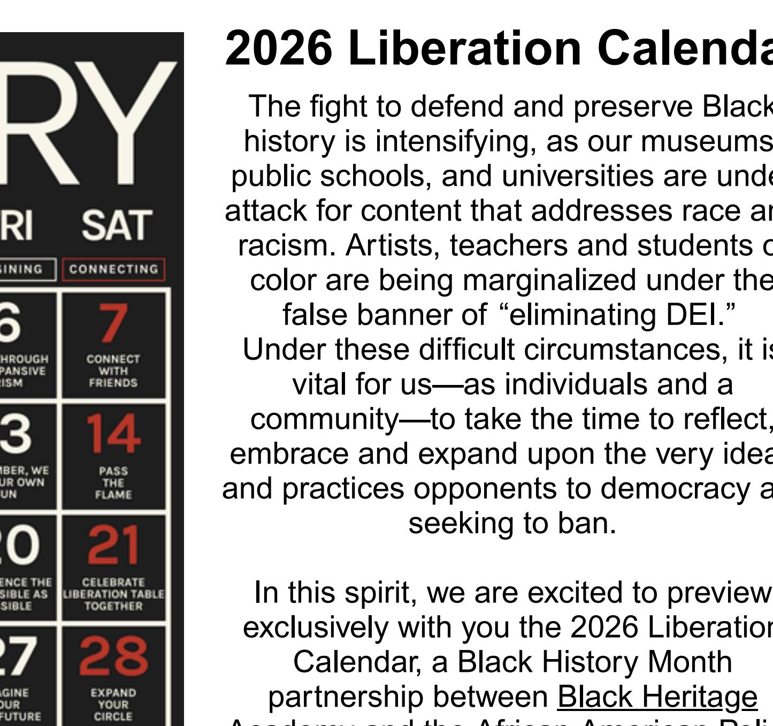
Contact us:
SNANstudy@miami.edu

Be part of an Important Study| Scan QR or click here to register.

UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS

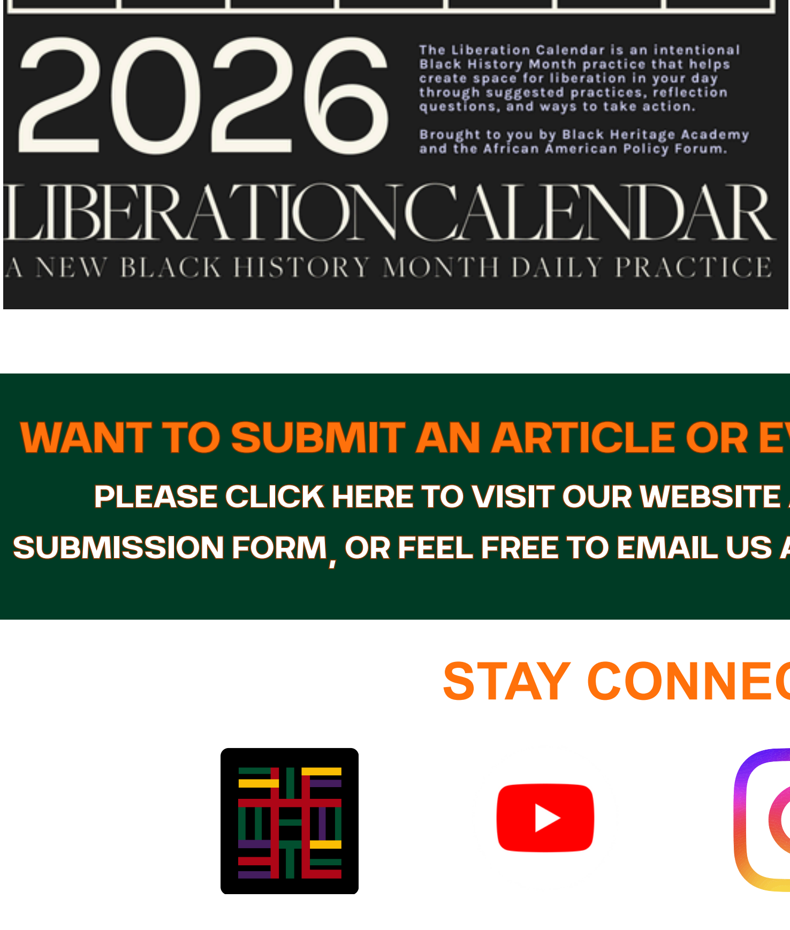
Pal'lante Virtual Conversation for College Students

We would like to invite you to share an upcoming virtual conversation with your students that brings together college students from universities across the country. ***February 22, 6:00 p.m. on Zoom.*** The goal of this event is to create a welcoming and supportive space for dialogue, connection, and community-building across institutions. Students from all universities and majors are encouraged to attend, and you are also welcome to join the conversation.



To RSVP please email Ellianna S-Torres, Founder & Director
ellianna.s-torres@palanteleaders.com

AFRICAN AMERICAN POLICY FORUM



FEBRUARY

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
RESTORING	GROUNDING	MOURNING	RESISTING	REJOICING	IMAGINING	CONNECTING
1 BEGIN A DAILY LIBERATION PRACTICE	2 EMBARK ON A SHARED JOURNEY	3 CONSIDER THE COST	4 SPEAK TRUTH TO POWER	5 EMBRACE YOUR CREATIVITY	6 LOOK THROUGH AN EXPANSIVE PRISM	7 CONNECT WITH FRIENDS
8 WALK	9 REDISCOVER A CULTURAL ARTIFACT	10 WADE IN THE WATER	11 TELL HER STORY OF RESISTANCE	12 GROOVE LIKE NO ONE'S WATCHING	13 REMEMBER, WE ARE OUR OWN SUN	14 PASS THE FLAME
15 STRETCH	16 PLANT SEEDS	17 MAKE A WAY OUT OF NO WAY	18 FIGHT FOR THE FREEDOM TO LEARN	19 REVEL IN THE MUSIC THAT RAISED YOU	20 EXPERIENCE THE IMPOSSIBLE AS POSSIBLE	21 CELEBRATE LIBERATION TABLE TOGETHER
22 BREATHE	23 WRITE TO YOUR ANCESTORS	24 BREAK SILENCE: #SAYHERNAME	25 REST AS AN ACT OF RESISTANCE	26 EXPLORE THE FREEDOM TO PLAY	27 IMAGINE YOUR AFROFUTURE	28 EXPAND YOUR CIRCLE

2026

The Liberation Calendar is an intentional Black History Month practice that helps create space for liberation in your day through suggested practices, reflection questions, and ways to take action.

Brought to you by Black Heritage Academy and the African American Policy Forum.

LIBERATIONCALENDAR
A NEW BLACK HISTORY MONTH DAILY PRACTICE

2026 Liberation Calendar

The fight to defend and preserve Black history is intensifying, as our museums, public schools, and universities are under attack for content that addresses race and racism. Artists, teachers and students of color are being marginalized under the false banner of "eliminating DEI." Under these difficult circumstances, it is vital for us—as individuals and a community—to take the time to reflect, embrace and expand upon the very ideas and practices opponents to democracy are seeking to ban.

In this spirit, we are excited to preview exclusively with you the 2026 Liberation Calendar, a Black History Month partnership between Black Heritage Academy and the African American Policy Forum. Beginning February 1, the Liberation Calendar will guide you through a daily, intentional practice to honor the battle for freedom and equality. By signing up, you will receive a daily email with suggested practice, opportunities for reflection, and calls to action designed to carve out a space in your day for liberation.

WANT TO SUBMIT AN ARTICLE OR EVENT FOR OUR NEXT ISSUE?

PLEASE CLICK HERE TO VISIT OUR WEBSITE AND COMPLETE THE NEWSLETTER SUBMISSION FORM, OR FEEL FREE TO EMAIL US AT GLOBALBLACKSTUDIES@MIAMI.EDU

STAY CONNECTED!

MIAMI

Center for Global Black Studies

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