

Students plan festivities to celebrate Black history

by **Eugene Scott** - Feb. 8, 2009 12:00 AM
The Arizona Republic

Arizona State University and several schools from the Maricopa County Community College District have a month of events planned to honor African-American contributions in celebration of Black History Month. Students planned most of the festivities. Here is a sampling of events:

Arizona State University

Tuesday

- At the downtown Phoenix campus, 555 N. Central Ave., journalism professor Retha Hill will give a free brown-bag lecture at noon.
- ASU West, 4701 W. Thunderbird Road, will host an invitational summit for African-American high-school students in La Sala.
- Toni Blackman will give a workshop at ASU Polytechnic, 7001 E. Williams Field Road, from 2 to 6 p.m. in the Union Annex Ballroom, teaching students how to improvise lyrics and how to develop discipline and leadership skills.

Wednesday

- There will be a Prayer for Peace luncheon at 11:30 a.m. in the Student Union Ballroom A, 1290 S. Normal Ave.
- Students are sponsoring a Soul Food Festival from noon to 2 p.m. on Hayden Lawn on the Tempe campus, near Apache Boulevard and College Avenue.

Thursday

- ASU West will host an art reception and opening of new work by artist and professor Leandro Soto at 6 p.m. in the IAP Gallery, 4701 W. Thunderbird Rd.

Weekends of Feb. 12 and Feb. 19

- There will be a theatrical production of A House With No Walls from Feb. 12-15 and Feb. 19-21 at Second Stage West. Second Stage West is on the lower level of the University Center Building at ASU West, 4701 W. Thunderbird Road in Phoenix.

Feb. 17

- Fatimah Halim, president of Life

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Paradigms, and Alonzo Jones, ASU associate dean of student affairs, will give inspirational presentations at 7 p.m. in La Sala at the University Center, University Way North and 49th Avenue.

Feb. 25

- There will be a one-hour sneak preview of the upcoming documentary about the plays of the late August Wilson, at 7:30 p.m. in La Sala, in the University Center, University Way North and 49th Avenue.

Feb. 26

- Members of S.T.A.R.S., a student success organization, will perform a play at 6 p.m. in the Memorial Union Pima Room on the Tempe campus, 1290 S. Normal Ave.

Feb. 28

- Jean Williams, a lawyer who became Arizona's first African-American female judge, will be honored at a Pioneer Award Dinner at 6 p.m. in La Sala at the University Center, University Way North and 49th Avenue.

Community colleges

Chandler-Gilbert, 2626 E. Pecos Road

Throughout February

- The Chandler-Gilbert Community College library will host "Exploring the Dream: A Photographic Exhibition of Exceptional African-Americans Who Inspire Others," an exhibit by Lyda and Oswald Harris that honors Martin Luther King Jr.

Thursday

- ASU Professor Matthew Whitaker will speak on "Race, Relations and Inter-Racial Unity in America" from 12:40 to 1:55 p.m. in the Performing Arts Center.

**Estrella Mountain , 3000 N. Dysart Road
Through Feb. 26**

- "Grass Roots: African Origins of an American Art," an exhibition focused on coiled basketry in Africa and America, will be on display at Plaza Gallery.

Gateway, 108 N. 40th St.

Feb. 17

- Nazim Rashid and New Renaissance will

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perform from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the Center for Student Life. Refreshments will be served.

Glendale , 6000 W. Olive Ave.

Monday

- Glendale Community College will offer a diversity forum on "What it Means to be African-American in the U.S." from 1 to 2 p.m. in SU-104A.

Feb. 19

- A talent show featuring poetry, rap music, dance and more will be performed from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in SU-104E.

Feb. 23

- The African dance troupe Enlightenment will perform in the SU lobby from 12 to 1 p.m.
- A play titled Colored Girls Who Commit Suicide When the Rainbow is Not Enough will be presented from 1 to 2 p.m. in SU-104E.

Feb. 27

- The 50-plus voices of the Martin Luther King Jr. Choir will perform, along with impressionist dancers, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. in SU-104DE.

Mesa, 1833 W. Southern Ave. Feb. 20

- The African-American Youth Leadership Institute will be in the Kirk Center at Mesa Community College from 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Feb. 27

- The MCC National Association for the Advancement of Colored People will host a potluck from 1 to 4 p.m. in the Multicultural Services Office.

Phoenix, 1202 W. Thomas Road

Thursday-Friday

- Phoenix Community College will host African American Legislative Days at the Arizona Capitol.

Feb. 17

- MLK Jr. Black History Knowledge Bowl from 6 to 10 p.m. in the Dome.

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Feb. 21

- Black Women Walking performance, 7 to 10 p.m., Bulpitt Auditorium.

Feb. 22

- Black Women Walking performance, 3 to 6 p.m., Bulpitt Auditorium.

Feb. 25

- Black History Month Luncheon, 12 to 1:30 p.m., Willo Room.

- African Diaspora Reunion from 7 to 10 p.m. in the Cafeteria. **Feb. 28**

- MLK Science and Academy Luncheon from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Culinary Café.

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