

West Valley View

The community newspaper of Avondale, Buckeye, Goodyear, Litchfield Park & Tolleson, AZ ♦ Phone (623) 535-8439

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February 10, 2012

2/10/2012

EMCC celebrates Black History Month

Rachel Trott
staff writer

Throughout February, **Estrella Mountain Community College** in Avondale will be hosting numerous events in honor of Black History Month.

"We're going to celebrate the rich legacy of African Americans and honor the remarkable contributions they have made to perfecting our country," said Linda Cutright, event committee chair. "The national theme for 2012, Black Women in American Culture and History, invites us to pay special tribute to the role of women who have played a part in shaping the character of our nation, often in the face of both racial and gender discrimination."

The annual Southwest Black History **Community** Celebration will be the biggest event of the month and honor the legacies of Motown and other black artists through live performances by vocalists, bands and dancers.

"Music is universal and the music at the event will represent many backgrounds and genres," said Austin Shepard, director of Academic Enrichment Programs and an event committee member. "We want participants to have an increased knowledge, understanding and appreciation of African American history, art and culture."

For information, contact Brittany Bennett at 623-935-8248.

Rachel Trott can be reached by email at rtrott@westvalleyview.com or on Twitter @byracheltrrott.

Black History Month events

Feb. 11: From 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., in the Ceremonial Plaza, the Southwest Black History **Community** Celebration will feature musicians Elaine Steptor, Jimmie McElroy and the Motown Review, 8919 productions, The God Chaser, Candice Chavez and Prayer of Thunder.

The family-friendly event will also feature ethnic food booths, dancers and information and awareness booths.

Feb. 14: From 1 to 3:30 p.m., in the Center for Teaching and Learning, R. J. Shannon, minority AIDS coordinator with the Arizona Department of Health Services, will speak about the attitudes and behaviors within minority communities regarding health issues, including relationships and disease prevention.

Feb. 15: From 1 to 2 p.m., in the Plaza Gallery, speaker Marcus Bellamy will take an in-depth look at how men of color define themselves within the context of socio-cultural influences and identities.

Feb. 16: From 12:30 to 2:45 p.m., in the Center for Teaching and Learning, EMCC will feature a showing of *The Birth of a Nation*. The silent film tells the story of the Civil War and its aftermath through the eyes of two families.

Feb. 17: From 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. the **college's** 2012 Black History Month Student Conference will bring **college** and high school students together to participate in workshops and listen to keynote speaker Carlian Dawson, a national expert in diversity leadership. The event is open only to high school and **college** students.

Feb. 22: At noon, in the North **Community** Room, the MLK luncheon will commemorate the life and work of Martin Luther King Jr. Tickets are \$5 for students and \$10 for adults. For information, contact Herschel Jackson at 623-935-8910.

Feb. 29: From 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., in the Plaza Gallery, a presentation will feature the history of kente cloth, which is customarily worn as a shawl on the graduation robes of African American graduates.

All events will be held at **Estrella Mountain Community College**, 3000 N. Dysart Road, Avondale. They are free and open to the public unless otherwise noted.

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