Black History Month

Established in 1976, February marks Black History Month, a time to recognize and celebrate the achievements and resilience of African Americans in U.S. history.

Though we reflect and celebrate as a nation during this month each year, it is imperative that we continually celebrate and acknowledge those Black Americans whose skill, talents and perseverance have helped to build this country.

We must firmly uproot lasting negative stereotypes, perceptions and actions that minimize and undermine the Black experience and, in some cases, place Black Americans in peril.

The theme of Black History Month 2023 is "Black Resistance," exploring how African Americans have resisted and overcome oppression. This year already offers too many poignant examples of minority community members suffering violence, hate speech and other egregious, inhumane acts. In the wake of five Memphis police officers being charged with the murder of Tyre Nichols, this Black History Month is particularly heavy.

Peaceful demonstrations have sprung up around the country to express frustration, disappointment and lament for the murder of 29-year-old Nichols. Together we mourn his death and denounce violent

incidents in which marginalized members of our society are too often the target.

We gather in churches, in the streets, in our homes to find comfort in our communal sorrow and, at the same time, look to past leaders who gathered in sorrow, walked to our capitol in peaceful protest and resisted as inspiration. It is the life of Rev. James Lawson that offers us solace in a divided world. His life of forgiveness and harnessing the power of love connects us to our shared humanity. In forgiving Vanderbilt for its treatment of him while he sought to bring the world together through nonviolent organizing, Lawson offers us a way forward, uniting and connecting us with those behaviors and practices that make a better world. Vanderbilt honors his legacy through the James Lawson Institute for the Research and Study of Nonviolent Movements, which emulates these practices and equips leaders to contribute to a better society.

This month we honor the ongoing fight for justice, equality for all and the right to be Black in America.

Sincerely,
André L. Churchwell, M.D.
Vice Chancellor for Outreach, Inclusion and Belonging
Chief Diversity Officer

Black History Month Events

Get Connected: Upcoming Events

2/9-2/19: Women's Center Sex Ed and Healthy Relationships Week

2/14: Holocaust Lecture Series Film - *Home from*

The Black Cultural Center is proud to collaborate with numerous campus partners to present a comprehensive list of events for 2023 that combines both virtual and in-person opportunities for the Vanderbilt community. Read More +

Robinson receives National Institutes of Health grant for faculty success program to promote equity in science

Renã Robinson, Dorothy Wingfield Phillips Chancellor's Faculty Fellow and professor of chemistry, received $2.04 million in funding from the National Institutes of Health to start a program that will help underrepresented minority faculty further their success in STEM. Read More +

V150

A look ahead at our 150th year

Chancellor Daniel Diermeier welcomes Vanderbilt students, faculty, staff and postdocs back to what promises to be an especially rich and fruitful spring semester in a message to the university community. Read More +

School: The Children of Carlile

2/21: Holocaust Lecture Series Lecture - Indigenous Resilience versus the Logic of Elimination in Federal Indian Boarding Schools

2/23: LGBTQI Life OUT in Front Conference

Continuing the Conversation

WATCH: MLK Day Keynote with Emmy Award-Winning Journalist Byron Pitts

Alumni Spotlight

Extracurricular experiences shaped alumnus from Syria's career in interfaith diversity

Resources

Heritage Month

Joseph appointed Peabody College associate dean for equity, diversity and inclusion

Nicole Joseph, associate professor of mathematics education, has been named associate dean for equity, diversity and inclusion at Vanderbilt Peabody College of education and human development. Read More +

Unity Project launches Vanderbilt Unity Lab; applications open for program trainers

To cultivate transformational connections across campus, the Vanderbilt Project on Unity and American Democracy will launch the Vanderbilt Unity Lab this spring. The Unity Lab will equip VU community members with the tools necessary to strengthen the bonds of cultural affinity and promote civil discourse. Students, faculty and staff are encouraged to apply for program training positions. Read More +

Workshops

Connect With Us

Vanderbilt announces new program in Asian American and Asian diaspora studies

The College of Arts and Science has launched a new undergraduate program in Asian American and Asian diaspora studies, including both a major and a minor, for spring 2023. Housed in the Department of Asian Studies, the program aims to provide students with a more comprehensive knowledge of Asian diaspora and perspectives, Asian and U.S. history, and race relations in the United States. Read More +

Vanderbilt to begin utility and infrastructure upgrades for campus growth

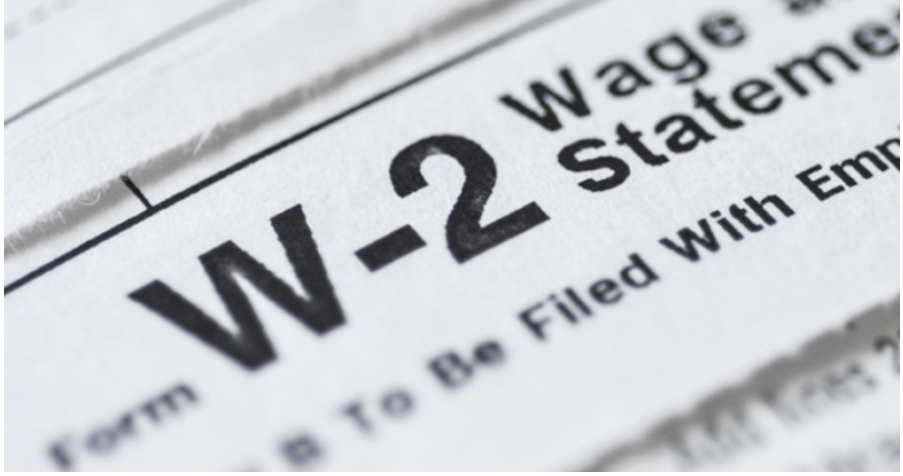
Vanderbilt University is making extensive upgrades to its utilities and other infrastructure as it prepares for campus growth. The Central Utilities Initiative, scheduled to begin in February, will provide enhancements to support various Vandy United projects, the Highland Quad residential colleges to be built along 25th Avenue South, and other future projects. Read More +

New housing survey seeks input from faculty, staff, graduate communities

Members of Vanderbilt University's faculty, staff, postdoc and professional and graduate student communities will receive an invitation today to participate in a new housing study. The survey is the latest in a long-term effort to meet the community's evolving housing needs, but it is the first to explore solutions for faculty and staff. Read More +

Develop healthy habits, earn rewards through new wellness program; Virgin Pulse replaces Go for the Gold

Vanderbilt University's new wellness program is now available to all employees. Administered by Virgin Pulse, the program encourages healthy habits through fun challenges and quarterly rewards.
Read More +



Electronic W-2s now available; printed documents have been mailed

Electronic W-2s are now available through ADP W-2 Services as a new, enhanced benefit for Vanderbilt University employees this year. Read More +

Participate in professional development and learning experiences this semester through HR Employee Learning and Engagement

Employee Learning and Engagement unlocks the potential of every Vanderbilt employee by offering innovative and meaningful learning experiences, creating space to foster conversations and connections, and encouraging a culture of learning and growth. These live, virtual learning experiences, designed exclusively for our Vanderbilt community, are offered at no cost. Read More +

VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY
EMPLOYEE BENEFITS

Take advantage of well-being resources for employees in 2023

Vanderbilt is encouraging all employees to take advantage of the extensive well-being resources now available to them. The offerings include newly launched wellness and mental health programs and are part of the university's broader commitment to supporting the holistic health of its faculty, staff and postdocs across key aspects of their lives. Read More +

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