

Rock County Equity Brief

FEB 2023

OBSERVE

Black History Month

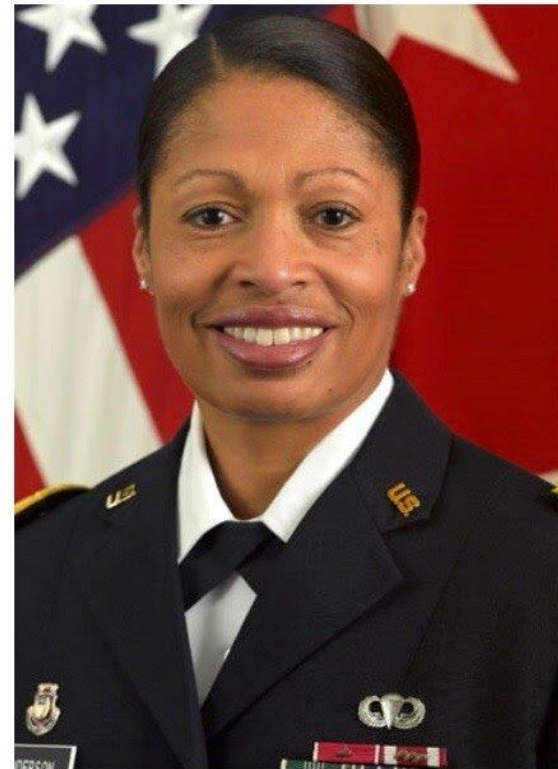
Black History Month is an annual celebration of achievements by African Americans and a time for recognizing their central role in U.S. history. Also known as African American History Month, the event grew out of “Negro History Week,” the brainchild of noted historian Carter G. Woodson and other prominent African Americans. Since 1976, every U.S. president has officially designated the month of February as Black History Month. Other countries around the world, including Canada and the United Kingdom, also devote a month to celebrating Black history.

February Day(s) Group, Culture or Cause Recognized

| | |
|-----------|---------------------------------------|
| All Month | American History Month |
| All Month | Black History Month |
| All Month | Canadian History Month |
| All Month | Human Relations Month |
| 14 | St. Valentine's Day |
| 20 | World Day Of Social Justice |
| 20 | <u>Presidents Day</u> |
| 21 | Mardi Gras |



For more information on Black History Month:
<https://blackhistorymonth.gov/>



RECOGNIZE

Marcia Anderson

Growing up in Beloit, Anderson says that her grandmother and mother were the greatest influences in her life. On October 1, 2011, Marcia Anderson made history when the United States Army Reserve promoted her to major general during a ceremony at Fort Knox. She was to be stationed in Washington D.C. as the third-highest ranking officer in the Army Reserve. She was the first African American to achieve this rank.

In 2016, after a thirty-six-year career, General Anderson retired from the Army Reserve. During her years in service, she earned the Distinguished Service Medal, the Legion of Merit with two oak leaf clusters, the Meritorious Service Medal with three oak leaf clusters, the Army Commendation Medal, the Army Achievement Medal, the Parachutist Badge, and the Physical Fitness Badge.

Source: www.aahsb.com/our-history-1

LEARN

An article dated February 11, 1941 was published in the *Beloit Daily News*, entitled, “First Negro Family Came to Beloit in the Late Thirties.” Reverend Hermes Zimmerman, an African American pastor of one of the local churches in Beloit, compiled and submitted historical information on early “colored” families in Beloit. The following is an excerpt from that article, “Mr. and Mrs. Emanuel Craig were the earliest colored people to settle in Beloit in the late 1830’s. Mr. Craig was born about 1770, a few years before the War of Independence and could remember conversations back in the nation’s infancy. He and Mrs. Craig lived on Portland avenue. He was a coachman and always wore a uniform with a high black stove pipe hat. He lived to be 115 years old and died in 1885.”

Source: <https://www.aahsb.com/our-history-1>

Lived To Be 115
Mr. and Mrs. Emanuel Craig were the earliest colored people to settle in Beloit in the late 1830's. Mr. Craig was born about 1770, a few years before the War of Independence and could remember conversations back in the nation's infancy. He and Mrs. Craig lived on Portland avenue. He was a coachman and always wore a uniform with a high black "stove pipe hat." He lived to be 115 years old and died in 1885

ACTION

Source: *Ways to Honor Black History Month*, by Terri E Givens

SUPPORT Black-Owned Businesses: Many Black-owned businesses still face structural racism, which poses a unique threat to their longevity and ability to serve their communities’ needs. An estimated 40 percent of Black business owners had already closed their doors between February and April of 2020. This number is twice the decline experienced by white business owners. Becoming a customer — specifically during February when these companies have a lot more visibility — is a great way to celebrate.

DONATE to Charities That Support Anti-Racism Equity and Equality: The charities and organizations that support anti-racism equity and equality need donors to continue their collective work to seek justice for the Black community. Consider donating to the Black Youth Project, Loveland Therapy Fund, Amistad Law Project, as well as grassroots organizations that oftentimes don’t receive widespread publicity.

PARTICIPATE in Online Events: Throughout the month of February, the Smithsonian’s National Museum of African American History and Culture (NMAAHC) offers a range of virtual events and conversations that affirm and preserve the accomplishments of African Americans throughout history. Check out the full offering [here](#).

ATTEND Virtual Black History Month Celebrations: There’s no shortage of virtual online Black History Month celebrations — from Questlove’s new animated Disney series for kids to reading up on this year’s Black History Month theme of Black health and wellness. In NMAAHC’s Black History Month toolkit, you’ll find everything from curated stories to a searchable museum to a new recipe to make at home. To find more locally-focused celebrations, check your city or state government websites for local listings for Black History Month events like online poetry events, scavenger hunts, art exhibitions, performances, and more.

LISTEN/READ “The 1619 Project” by the New York Times: “The 1619 Project” is a long-form historical recounting of the role slavery played in the transformation of America. The project references the year 1619, when the first ship carrying enslaved Africans reached the shores of the colony of Virginia. Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist and project creator Nikole Hannah Jones hosts a podcast that dissects the link between slavery and American economics, the co-opting of Black musicians’ work, and the obstacles Black people faced with receiving healthcare and land ownership rights.

LEARN about Noteworthy Black Figures and their Contributions: Typically, Black History Month draws associations with well-known figures like Civil Rights leader Martin Luther King, Jr. and activist Rosa Parks, but there are many others to learn about. For example, there’s Shirley Chisholm, the first Black woman elected to Congress. And Fannie Lou Hamer, a Black activist from Mississippi who launched Freedom Farm Cooperative (FFC), an initiative to purchase land that Black people could collectively own and farm. Visit [BlackPast.org](https://blackpast.org) for an extensive list of other notable Black figures.

BRIEF RECAP: JAN 2023

OBSERVE

National Poverty in America Awareness Month

January is National Poverty in America Awareness Month, and this holiday aims to recognize the severe poverty conditions that many live in. More than 40 million Americans live in poverty. Within the U.S., many are still deprived of three meals a day, quality education, and even clean and healthy drinking water.

RECOGNIZE

Shirley Chisholm

Shirley Chisholm was the first Black woman elected to the United States Congress, the first black candidate for a major party's nomination for President of the United States, and the first woman to run for the Democratic Party's presidential nomination. In her seven terms in Congress, Chisholm became a leader in anti-poverty and education reform policy. In addition to sponsoring numerous health, education, childcare, and employment-focused bills, she was also a member of the House Subcommittee on Equal Opportunity.



Shirley Chisholm

LEARN

Poor People's Campaign

Poor Peoples Campaign was started by Martin Luther King, Jr, and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference in Dec 1967. King felt that the challenges of human rights, not just civil rights, had to be addressed. He saw moral issues in the enduring poverty that hurt people across races, cultures, and regions. He planned for a great assembly of poor to come to Washington, DC, in the spring of 1968 to demand economic equity in work, education, housing, and other spaces.

TRAINING

Rock County DEI Training

All employees must complete two DEI training per year. There are a variety of diverse topics and training formats provided to all employees. Please note that one of the trainings must be from the County DEI list to fulfill your County DEI requirement, and one training can be from a community partner or outside DEI training (if it meets the DEI training requirements). New employees are only required to participate in one equity training within the year of their hire.

FAQ's

How can I check my training completion status or submit outside training certificates?

Email all questions and submissions to - equity@co.rock.wi.us

When is the last date to submit 2023 training information?

December 30th, 2023

***2023 Rock County Training Schedule Coming Soon!**



Please join us to enjoy great speakers, performances, history exhibits, and music!

When - February 15th, 2023 | 12pm-1:30pm
Where - Daniel Hale Williams Resource Center (DWRC)

** Attendance is considered professional development and will count toward one Rock County DEI Educational Session/Training.*