

February is Black History Month!

A Message from our CEO

Origins of Black History Month

Racism: Challenging Perceptions

(A 4 part discussion series from Virginia Public Media)

Resources

Black History, Black Freedom & Black Love

Streaming Free During Black History Month

Brought to you by the Fidelity House CRC DEI Taskforce

Black History Month provides us an opportunity to highlight and take action against the discrimination and continuation of a caste system in our country which for centuries has oppressed people who are black. At Fidelity House CRC, we have always been committed to advocating for people with disabilities to ensure equal opportunities for inclusion and belonging and to end discrimination for this population. I believe it is our responsibility to use our resources, experience and expertise to also support other groups of people who have been and continue to be oppressed.

Our DEI Taskforce is taking action and looking at our own agency's practices and where we can enhance belonging for employees from all ethnic and cultural backgrounds.

Racism is tragically still very real and all too prevalent. Black History Month provides an opportunity for us to:

- Recommit to action
- Speak out when injustices happen
- Get involved in legislative education and advocacy
- Promote fair and equal access to voting
- Raise ideas for training and educating our workforce
- Educate ourselves on the history of discrimination in our country so that we may not repeat history and maintain those systems which continue to allow violence and discrimination against people who are black

Please join me in taking action in whatever way feels right to you.

Thank you!

~Brad Howell

President & CEO

“Not to speak is to speak. Not to act is to act”. – Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Origins of Black History Month

Why does Black History Month occur in February? The relevance of February goes back to 1926, when Dr. Carter G. Woodson first established “Negro History Week” during the second week of February. And why that week? Because it encompasses

the birthdays of Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass—both men being great American symbols of freedom. Woodson dedicated his life to researching, preserving, and disseminating information about black history, life, and culture. Over the years, Negro History Week morphed into Black History Month.

**Sourced from The Association for the Study of African American Life and History*

ASSOCIATION FOR THE STUDY OF AFRICAN AMERICAN LIFE AND HISTORY®
THE 2022 BLACK HISTORY MONTH
Virtual FESTIVAL
THE 2022 BLACK HISTORY THEME: BLACK HEALTH AND WELLNESS
ALL MONTH LONG DURING FEBRUARY

[Click Here](#) to register for the ASALH Virtual Black History Month Festival

Racism: Challenging Perceptions

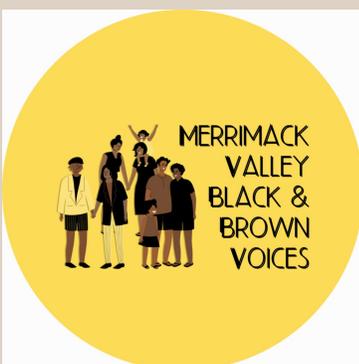
A 4 part discussion series from Virginia Public Media (VPM)



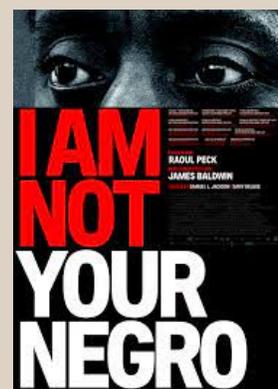
A year following the brutal death of George Floyd and the onset of a pandemic that shed light on racial disparities, we will discuss what changes, if any, have occurred in how communities view and value Black lives. This discussion will include the founder of the Richmond Racial Equity Essays, Ebony Walden and Dr. Wes Bellamy, Political Science Department Chair at Virginia State University. Aired: 10/27/21 Rating: TV-PG

[CLICK Here to Watch Challenging Perceptions Series](#)

Resources, Training & Events



[Merrimack Valley Black & Brown Voices](#)



[I Am Not Your Negro 2016 Documentary](#)

The History you weren't taught in school...



Black History, Black Freedom & Black Love
Streaming For Free [HERE](#) During Black History Month



www.fidelityhhs.org

