

Celebrating Black History Today & Tomorrow



Southern Connecticut State University celebrates the strong legacy and future of Black excellence and resilience. Dr. Carter G. Woodson, affectionately known as the “Father of Black History” worked to institutionalize the stories and successes of many in the Black community and members of the African diaspora in the United States.

He is not alone in this work though as Black women, Black queer folks, and Black trans people have been at the forefront of cultural change, activism, and imagination; often without receiving the credit they deserve. From the organizing brilliance of figures like Ella Baker and Fannie Lou Hamer, to the visionary contributions of Marsha P. Johnson, Audre Lorde, and countless others, Black liberation movements have always been intersectional at their core.

Please consider supporting the many events throughout the month. At the end of this newsletter you will find a sampling of events for our community.

Resources for Deeper Learning and Opportunities



Mary & Eliza Freeman – The Freeman sisters were free Black property owners in the 1800s and central figures in the Little Liberia community, now preserved as historic homes listed on the State and National Registers

<https://freemancenterbpt.org/>

New Haven Black Pride is hosted by APNH (A Place to Nourish Your Health)! APNH—Connecticut’s oldest AIDS service organization—began as an all-volunteer effort providing compassionate, holistic care and has grown into a comprehensive health and wellness agency.

apnh.org

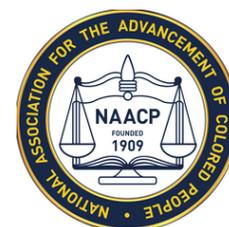


Check out the African American History Library Guide put together by our Buley Library Team

<https://libguides.southernct.edu/ushistoryprimary/africanamericanhistory>

Granted its charter to become a NAACP branch office in 1917, the Greater New Haven Branch has worked in alignment with the vision, mission, goals, and objectives of the national organization for more than 90 years. It has become the largest branch office in New England!

<https://www.gnhnaacp.org/>





Reflections on DEI Today

Much has changed—and much has stayed the same—in our DEI landscape at Southern this year, shaped by the broader sociopolitical climate. These are uncertain times, but not hopeless ones. In moments like this, I return to our mission:

“At Southern, we are committed to identifying and addressing systemic barriers to equity, access, and success for all members of our community. We are also committed to constructive dialogues where we treat one another with dignity, respect, kindness, compassion, and civility as we share varying perspectives, with the goal of creating a culture of inclusion and belonging.”

As we move forward in our work for social justice and student success, I invite us all to reflect on how we live out these values—especially when public discourse often leans toward division. Are we modeling stability, understanding, and bridge-building for our students and one another? I remain hopeful because I continue to witness the humanity and care across our community.

This fall, much of my learning came through being present at campus events—from FYRE projects and graduate research applications to cultural programs like Rep Your Flag, Noche de Gala, Culture Night, and celebrating Sukkot. These experiences reaffirm how essential belonging is to student engagement and academic excellence.

Improving the DEI experience is central to helping students thrive academically and socially. When students feel supported and included, they can fully participate, persist, and excel in their studies.

I also recognize the depth of the work ahead. I ask for your patience and partnership as we navigate these times. I welcome conversations, questions, and collaboration around DEI, belonging, access, and student success. My door is open as I know our work is strongest when we do it together.

In solidarity,



Sergio Pérez, Ed.D.

Vice President for Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion

Introducing the Student Success & Equity Grants

The Division of DEI invites proposals for projects that advance equity, inclusion, and student success; particularly for historically marginalized student groups.

This grant supports initiatives that strengthen persistence and retention by addressing barriers, promoting belonging, and creating culturally affirming experiences that validate identities and lived experiences.

Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis until funding is exhausted. Funding requests up to \$1,500 are accepted. Faculty, staff, undergraduate, and graduate students are eligible to apply.

More information and application can be found here:

<https://www.southernct.edu/dei/grants>





Southern Connecticut State University

Division of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

Spring 2026 Welcome

Training and Development Offerings

We offer support and collaboration on DEI initiatives for classrooms, trainings, orientations, and more. Available workshops include intersectional identity, solidarity and community building, institutional mission empowerment, microaggressions, in-group/out-group dynamics, LGBTQ+ identity and allyship, racial identity development, and additional topics. We are also happy to co-create tailored offerings to meet your specific needs.

For planning, contact perezs25@southernct.edu



YOU'RE INVITED!

SCSU Community Events

BLACK HISTORY MONTH 2026
CELEBRATE • EDUCATE • ELEVATE.

Uplift & Unify: Affirming Black Joy
Wednesday, February 4th, 2026 | 12pm - 2pm | Interfaith Center, ASC 235
Write affirmations & uplift our community in an Afro-centric creative space.

Game On! Black History Month Edition
Tuesday, February 10th, 2026 | 11am - 1pm | Multicultural Center, ASC 202
CultureTags & Black culture trivia fun!

Bold as Rustin: Black History Meets LGBTQ+ Pride
Monday, February 23rd, 2026 | 2pm - 4pm | SAGE Center, ASC 236
Screening & discussion of the film *Rustin*.

Friday Sounds of Blackness: A Black History Month Music Spotlight
Fridays, Feb 6th, 20th & 27th, 2026 | 12pm - 4pm | Multicultural Center, ASC 202
Weekly showcase of iconic Black music artists!

MCC's Heritage Ball
Thursday, March 5th, 2026 | 7pm - 11pm | Adanti Student Center, Grand Ballroom
An elegant evening of culture & community!

SCSU Athletics & Recreation
PRIDE NIGHT!
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2026

SPECIAL PERFORMANCE BY
BLEACH THE DRAG QUEEN

WOMEN'S GAME: 1:30 PM **MEN'S GAME: 3:30 PM**

SCSU vs. AIC
Moore Field House

Southern Connecticut State University
Division of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

ALL ARE WELCOME!

SHOW YOUR PRIDE & SUPPORT!