



Metropolitan Community College
40 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE

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MCC kicks off Black History Month

OMAHA, Neb.—Metropolitan Community College is hosting various educational programs throughout the month of February in celebration of Black History Month. All events are free and open to the public.

The celebration kicks off Thursday, Jan. 30, 6–8 p.m., at MCC's Fort Omaha Campus, Swanson Conference Center, with a panel discussion on the 50th anniversary of the 1964 Civil Rights Act. Randall Jelks, University of Kansas associate professor of African and African-American Studies, and local panelists will discuss the relative success of organizations such as churches, the NAACP, the Urban League and fraternities and sororities in upholding civil rights and challenging violations today. An hors d'oeuvres buffet by the Institute for the Culinary Arts begins the evening. The Swanson Conference Center is located in Building 22 near the 32nd Street and Sorensen Parkway entrance.

Additional educational programs include:

Discovering Home: African Travel Stories

Wednesday, Feb. 5, noon–12:50 p.m., Fort Omaha Campus, Building 10, Room 110

In June 2013, Gabrielle and Sharif Liwaru embarked on a journey to the African homeland of their ancestors. They planned as much as possible, but nothing could prepare them for the rewarding experiences on this international family trip. The Liwarus share discoveries about themselves and explain how their connection to Africa far surpassed any previous online research. Traveling to Senegal and the Gambia renewed purpose, inspired vision and set them on a path of growth in self-discovery.

Great Kings and Queens of Africa

Thursday, Feb. 6, 12:15–1:15 p.m., Fort Omaha Campus, Building 10, Room 110

Until the middle of the 20th century, some western scholars continued to deny that Africa has a history. The historical evidence suggests otherwise. Many centuries before Europeans came to Africa, great kingdoms, empires and civilizations existed across the continent. They were ruled by great kings and

queens, some of whom confronted and valiantly resisted European colonial domination. Baba G. Jallow, assistant professor and director of African-American studies at Creighton University, examines some of their stories.

Video and discussion: “The Long Walk of Nelson Mandela”

Thursday, Feb. 6, 6:30–9:15 p.m., South Omaha Campus, Industrial Training Center, Room 120

Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela was a South African anti-apartheid revolutionary, politician and philanthropist who served as president of South Africa from 1994 to 1999. Frontline presents this deeply personal biography of one of the great figures of the 20th century. The video tells the story of the man behind the myth, probing Mandela’s character, leadership and life’s method through intimate recollections with friends, political allies, adversaries, and his fellow prisoners and jailers on Robben Island where Mandela spent 18 of his 27 prison years. Dawn Curry, assistant professor of history and ethnic studies at the University of Nebraska–Lincoln, leads discussion.

The Dred Scott Decision – The Rest of the Story and Its Impact on Our Nation

Tuesday, Feb. 11, 12:15–1:30 p.m., South Omaha Campus, Industrial Training Center, Room 120

The Dred Scott Decision is one of the most important cases ever tried in the U.S. This Supreme Court action in 1857 hastened the start of the Civil War as the court held that African-Americans, whether slave or free, could not be American citizens and therefore had no standing to sue in federal court. The ruling also stated that the federal government had no power to regulate slavery in the federal territories acquired after the creation of the U.S. Lynne M. Jackson, president and founder of The Dred Scott Heritage Foundation and great-great granddaughter of Dred and Harriet Scott, will hold a Q&A session on Tuesday, Feb. 11, 10:15–11 a.m. at the Sarpy Center, 91st Street and Giles Road, Room 121. A presentation will follow at the South Omaha Campus.

Black Eagle

Monday, Feb. 17, 6:15–7:15 p.m., Fort Omaha Campus, Building 22, Swanson Conference Center

Tuesday, Feb. 18, 12:30–1:30 p.m., Elkhorn Valley Campus, Room 114

Mixed Blood Theatre from Minneapolis presents the dynamic story of a modern American hero: Ronald McNair, the African-American scientist aboard the space shuttle Challenger. McNair vividly recounts his inspiring journey from a segregated Carolina town to the elite space program, affirming the rewards of determination and belief in oneself. The performance is appropriate for all ages.

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Metropolitan Community College, accredited by the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association, is a comprehensive, public community college that offers affordable and quality education to all residents of Dodge, Douglas, Sarpy and Washington counties. Founded in 1974, MCC has the largest enrollment out of six community colleges in Nebraska and is the second largest postsecondary institution in the state. MCC serves more than 40,000 students annually.