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For Today's Black College Students

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C O N T E N T S

4 DID YOU KNOW

Courtney Mpagi Is Ms. Black Louisiana USA 2023 And HBCUs Played A Role In Her Success.

by *James B. Ewers Jr. Ed.D.*

6 EDUCATIONAL

E.P.A.: Join Our Team And Change The World

12 UNIVERSITIES

Morgan State Students Selected To Participate In 2023 University Innovation Fellows Program At Stanford University

14 UNIVERSITIES

Success Tips For Science And Math Courses
by *Dr. Felicia Durden*

16 HERITAGE

Navigating Work And Career: Wisdom From African American Trailblazers
by *Robin Kegler*

20 SCHOLARSHIPS

"Hot Scholarships For The Month"
by *Carla M. Dickerson*

22 BLACK COLLEGE QUEENS 2023-2024

36 HEALTH

Health Conscious 101:
Maintaining Healthy Habits
by *Jessica Miller*

40 SPOKEN 'N HEARD

Sweet Land Of Liberty
by *Bernice Ramey*

42 BEAUTY

Hair-Story PRESSED Forward
by *Crystal Styles*

44 EDUCATIONAL

Immersion Experience: Students Visit Garinagu People Of Belize
by *Rachael Battle, Ph.D.*

46 UNIVERSITIES

TSU Enjoys Private Screening Courtesy Of Aluman Oprah Winfrey
by *Alexis Clark*

49 BLACK COLLEGE TODAY FALL TOUR VORHEES UNIVERSITY

54 ENTERTAINMENT

What's Hot On The Net!
by *Steven M. Mootry*

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Courtney Mpagi

IS MS. BLACK LOUISIANA USA 2023 AND HBCU'S PLAYED A ROLE IN HER SUCCESS.

By Dr. James B. Ewers Jr. Ed.D.

During her formative years, Courtney Mpagi lived on the campuses of Dillard University in New Orleans Louisiana and Savannah State College (now University) in Savannah Georgia. She said, "I was surrounded by Black excellence every day. She added, "I know that it helped me with my own aspirations."

Courtney's quest to become Ms. Black Louisiana USA really started with her thinking that she just wanted to help with the pageant. She soon realized she wanted to be a contestant. One of her goals originally was to start a pageant for African American girls.

Instead of just helping, Courtney was crowned Ms. Black Louisiana USA 2023. That was only the beginning. She traveled along with her husband, Montrell and daughter, Makoy to participate in the Ms. Black USA competition in August 2023. The event was held in Washington DC.

She was the 3rd runner-up in the national competition and won the Heart of Service Award. Courtney's 3 campaign platforms have been to impact childhood literacy, to empower Black girls with the tools for success and to visit as many places in Louisiana in her role as a state and national winner.

She has already developed partnerships with the Library System and the Recreation Department in the city of New Orleans. Courtney believes that positive actions will bring about positive results. This sense of self-determination has always been her mantra and her focus. This characteristic helped her as she was a model with the Sepia Fashion Review Runway Tour in Chicago some years back.

While at Savannah State University, she remembers a young woman being crowned



Miss Savannah State and she was not favored to win the contest. She took from that experience that you should never give up on your dreams.

As a much sought-after speaker especially in African American circles, she tells young girls that "I'm you and you are me". She tells them they are beautiful and confident. This is the advice she gave recently to the contestants in the Ms. Black Alabama USA Pageant. Courtney says, "I am determined to help as many young Black girls and young women as I can. We need more role models in our communities."

She feels strongly about the impact Historically Black Colleges and Universities are having on the educational landscape. Courtney knows they contributed mightily to her own success. She believes meeting successful Black people made her more thoughtful and intentional about her goals.

Meeting the late Congressman John Lewis and Civil Rights Icon Julian Bond were defining and enriching moments in her life. As I listened to her talk, I realized her unbridled enthusiasm when it came to giving young people of color hope and courage as they move forward in life. Her communication skills will bode well for her as she continues to forge new pathways for others.

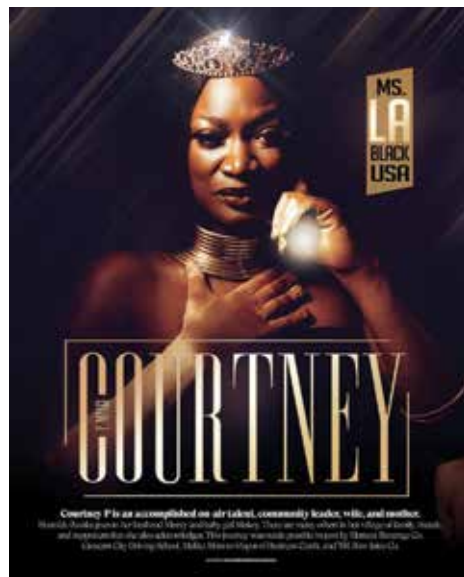
She said that her mom, a retired social worker and educator has been the consistent bright light and north star in her life. Courtney said, "My mom set the bar really high, and she made me strive for it." She knows that she was raised with unconditional love and support.

Watching proudly as Courtney achieves her goals is her mom, Deborah Ewers who said, "As a child Courtney had a strong will and was independent. She had a spirit of wanting to help people with their problems. This hasn't changed in her."

Courtney has always received the support of her brothers, Aaron and Chris, who have given helpful advice to her along the way. Courtney has a strong family unit and support system, and it will continue to be the anchor in her life as she positions herself for new ventures.

Let's be on the lookout for her in the coming years as her future is bright. She can be reached at www.MsCourtneyP.com

Courtney is the daughter of Mrs. Deborah L. Ewers MSW and Dr. James B. Ewers Jr.



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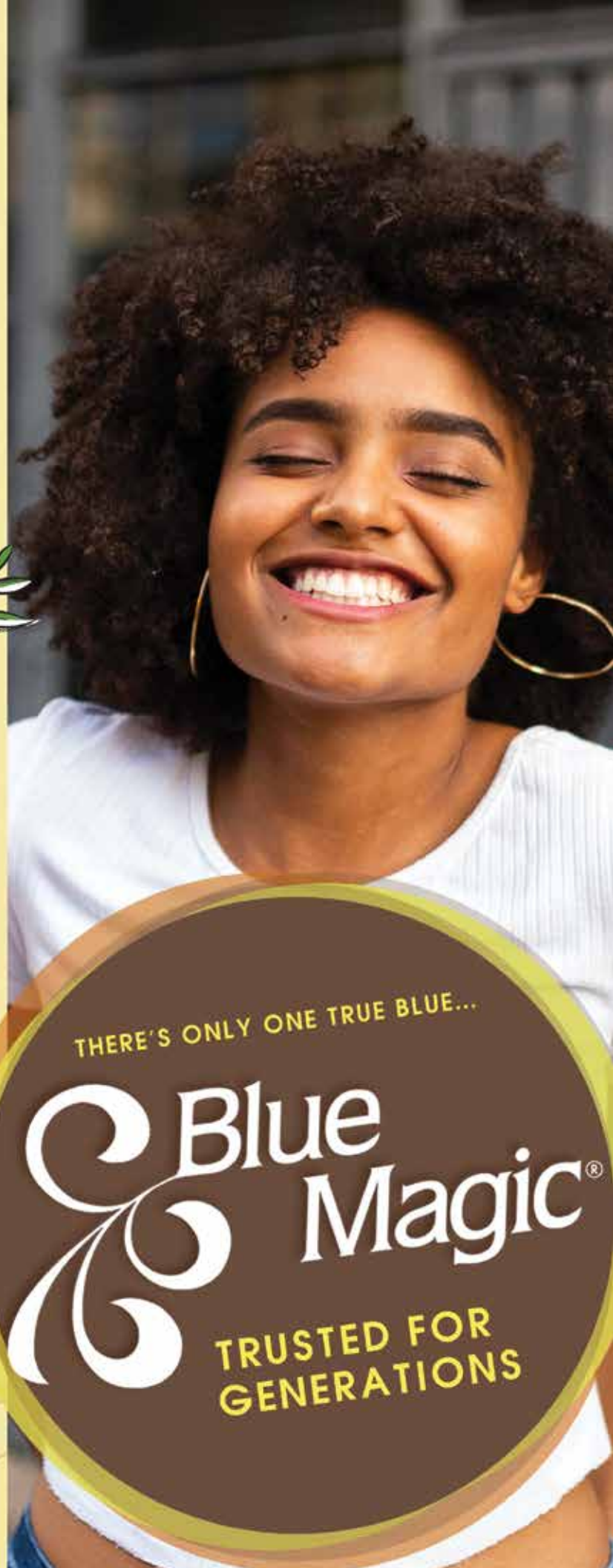
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Morgan State Students Selected to Participate in 2023 University Innovation Fellows Program at Stanford University



Program Empowers Student Leaders From Around the World to Address Global Challenges and Develop Leadership Skills, Serving as Advocates for Lasting Institutional Change

Four Morgan State University students have been selected to participate in the 2023 University Innovation Fellows Program, run by Stanford University's Hasso Plattner Institute of Design, also known as the (d.school). With Morgan's latest cohort of University Innovation Fellows, graduate students Cierra Robinson (Higher Education Administration) and Bello Mahmud (Civil Engineering); along with undergraduate senior Gbolahan Abioye (Computer Science) and junior Tomisin Adebari (Biology), will represent Morgan at national events as advocates for policy changes that can help support a nation of young people who possess an entrepreneurial mindset, a passion for solving society's most pressing problems, and the necessary attitudes, skills and abilities to make a difference in the world.

In this annual, highly competitive, cohort-based program, Fellows represent the student voice in the global conversation about the future of higher education. As student leaders, the Fellows become familiar with their schools' innovation and entrepreneurship ecosystem, working

closely with faculty, administrators and community stakeholders. Based on their deep understanding of the learning opportunities available at their schools, Fellows are empowered to design and implement activities to enhance the educational landscape, creating student innovation spaces, entrepreneurship organizations and new courses. Through project-based classes, Fellows can gain skills and perspectives that they take back to their primary area of focus, fueling innovation or launching entirely new ventures in new work environments.

For their project for the program, the 2023 Morgan Fellows' created an Innovative Teach Lab, which enabled a comprehensive approach to equipping educators with the necessary skills and knowledge to integrate technology into their teaching methods effectively. The lab includes professional development programs for educators, resource management to enhance teaching methods, support for a dynamic learning environment of ongoing training, promotion of equitable learning, and maintenance of strategic

partnerships to support and strengthen the training initiatives.

Fellows are nominated by their universities' faculty and administrators as individuals or teams of students and are selected through an application process each year. Following acceptance into the program, Fellows participate in a six-week online training experience. During training, Fellows learn to analyze their campus ecosystems and identify opportunities for change related to innovation, entrepreneurship, design thinking and creativity. They work to understand the needs of peers across disciplines and the perspectives of faculty and administrators; then, they apply the new knowledge and perspectives to design of new educational opportunities for their peers. After training, Fellows implement the projects they crafted. They continue to serve as change agents and leaders at their schools and beyond.

This year, 261 students from 68 universities in 15 countries participated in the program. With the addition of the new Fellows, the program has trained more than 3,100 students since its creation.

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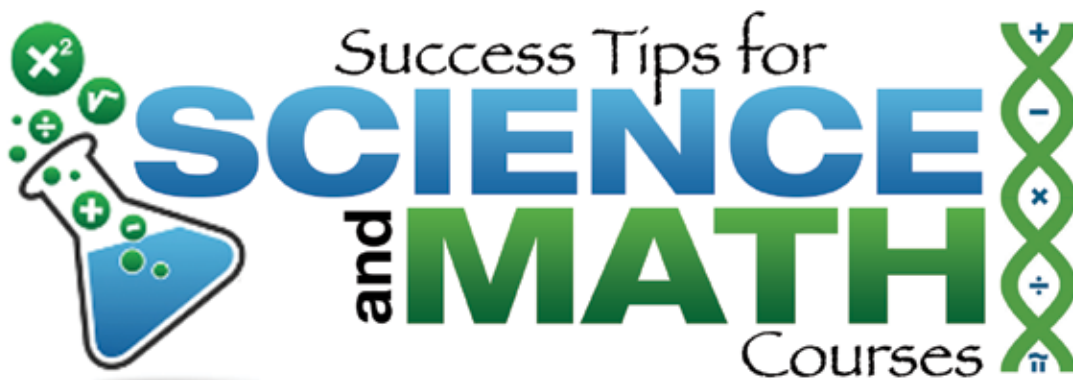
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*“Never Give Up. Always Keep Moving Forward.
Keep standing up when you fall. Always keep standing.”*

— CHIMAOBIM UZOUCHUKWU

This month I was able to interview Chimaobim Uzochukwu an adjunct professor for Biology at a community college in Minnesota.

Uzochukwu has been teaching science courses for four years. I was able to sit with him and discuss tips that will help you have successful experiences in your science and math courses. We discussed tips for those struggling in their courses as well as tips to make your experiences more engaging.

1. What habits do your most successful students have?

In my experience, my most successful students study regularly, ask questions frequently and are polite to their instructors and colleagues alike

2. What tips would you have for students struggling in Math and Science?

Students who are successful in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) related courses are those who take responsibility for their success. They study regularly,

follow instructions, and adequately utilize their instructors as resources.

Taking personal responsibility for success in courses is the key to excellence. Many times students come to classes and want to get all the information from their instructor. You want to look at the instructions as a facilitator and guide. I find that when students take responsibility for their struggles do better than those who blame the professor.

3. What is one thing you wish you knew before you started college?

The effect of having friends going in the same direction academically as you. It is very important to choose friends carefully and have study groups and friends.

4. What are some study tips you can share?

A pertinent study tip I give to students is to study for at least 5 minutes daily and not wait till the very last minute to study.

5. Last tips for success.

Choose friends carefully. You want to make friends with people are more academically in tuned. Study groups versus drinking buddies.

You can learn things more from your peers than you professors at times.

Study for at least 5 minutes daily. You would be surprised how much you can learn in 5 minutes. Chimaobin says he did this when he was a student. He said that using this method you will find that when the test comes you have no need to study because you have already studied all the pertinent information.

Follow instructions that the instructor gives out. Chimaobim says that more half the students do not follow basic instructions such as reading the syllabus which significantly impacts their progress.

Dr. Felicia Durden is an accomplished Educator with over twenty years experience in Education. She holds her Doctorate of Education degree in Educational Leadership, Master's Degree in Curriculum & Instruction and a Bachelor of Arts Degree in English Literature. Dr. Durden has taught grades K-12, served as an Assistant Director of Reading and Writing and currently serves as Principal in a large Urban School District in Arizona. She has taught English Composition at the College level as an adjunct instructor for over 10 years. Dr. Durden has a passion for assisting student growth in reading and writing.

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NAVIGATING WORK AND CAREER:

WISDOM FROM AFRICAN AMERICAN TRAILBLAZERS



By Robin Kegler

In the tapestry of human experience, work, and career are threads woven into the fabric of our lives, contributing to the richness of our personal and collective narratives. For many African Americans, the journey through the professional landscape has been marked by resilience, determination, and a commitment to overcoming obstacles. In this article, we explore insights and guidance from prominent African Americans who have left an indelible mark on the world of work and career.

Booker T. Washington: Measuring Success on Overcoming Obstacles

“Success is to be measured not so much by the position that one has reached in life as by the obstacles which he has overcome.”

Booker T. Washington, a towering figure in American history, emphasized that success is not solely defined by one’s position in life but by the obstacles overcome. As an advocate for education and self-reliance, Washington’s words remind us that the challenges we face can become stepping stones to success. In the face of adversity, African Americans have historically demonstrated the power of resilience, turning setbacks into opportunities for growth.

Ava DuVernay: Finding Joy in the Work

“I work really hard to just focus on the joy of the work that gets to be done and the impact that it has.”

Ava DuVernay, a trailblazing filmmaker, and storyteller, highlights the importance of finding joy in our work. In a world where career paths can be challenging and demanding, DuVernay encourages you to focus on the intrinsic rewards of your efforts. Whether it’s creating art, shaping narratives, or contributing to meaningful projects, the joy derived from the work itself can be a powerful motivator.

Maya Angelou: Triumph Over Trials

“You may not control all the events that happen to you, but you can decide not to be reduced by them.”

Maya Angelou, a celebrated poet and civil rights activist, imparted timeless wisdom about triumphing over trials. Her words inspire individuals to rise above circumstances and not be reduced by challenges. Angelou’s resilience and ability to transform adversity into strength serve as a beacon for those navigating the complexities of their careers.

Shonda Rhimes: Hard Work Pays Off

“I work really, really hard. And all my work has taught me that hard work pays off. Period.”

Shonda Rhimes, the creative force behind hit television shows like *Grey’s Anatomy*, underscores the value of hard work. Her journey from aspiring writer to television mogul demonstrates that dedication and tenacity are key ingredients for success. Rhimes reminds us that the sweat equity invested in your endeavors pays off in the long run.

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Malcolm X: Shaping the Future Through Preparation

“The future belongs to those who prepare for it today.”

Malcolm X, a transformative figure in the civil rights movement, spoke about the importance of preparing for the future. His words resonate with the idea that foresight and preparation are crucial in navigating the ever-evolving landscape of work and career. By equipping oneself with knowledge and skills, you can shape your destinies and contribute to a brighter future.

Oprah Winfrey: Building Healthy Relationships in Career and Life

“Do not bring people in your life who weigh you down. And trust your instincts—good relationships feel good. They feel right. They don’t hurt.”

Oprah Winfrey, media mogul and philanthropist, emphasizes the significance of building healthy relationships in both career and life. Her advice underscores the importance of surrounding oneself with positive influences and fostering connections that uplift rather than weigh down. In the pursuit of success, cultivating meaningful relationships can be a source of support and inspiration.

Langston Hughes: Dreams Deferred and Achieved

“An artist must be free to choose what he does, certainly, but he must also never be afraid to do what he might choose.”

Langston Hughes, a poet, and leading figure of the Harlem Renaissance explored the theme of dreams deferred in his poetry. While some works reflect the challenges faced by African Americans in pursuing their aspirations, Hughes also celebrated the resilience and determination to achieve those dreams. His words remind us that the pursuit of one’s goals is a journey filled with both setbacks and triumphs.

Hughes’ words also reflect the idea that true fulfillment in a career comes when you are not only free to choose your path but also unafraid to pursue your passions. It emphasizes the importance of authenticity and courage in career choices.

Madame C. J. Walker: Pioneering Entrepreneurship

“I had to make my own living and my own opportunity. But I made it! Don’t sit down and wait for the opportunities to come. Get up and make them. I am not satisfied in making money for myself. I endeavor to provide employment for hundreds of the women of my race.”

Madam C.J. Walker, the first self-made female millionaire in the United States, broke barriers as an African-American entrepreneur. Her success in the beauty and hair care industry serves as a testament to the transformative power of innovation and determination. Walker’s legacy encourages aspiring entrepreneurs to forge their paths, even in industries where they may be underrepresented. Walker’s words also emphasize the proactive approach she took in shaping her own career. Instead of waiting for opportunities, she seized them, encouraging you to do the same. It speaks to the power of initiative in career development. Madam C.J. Walker not only achieved personal success but also dedicated herself to creating opportunities for others. This quote reflects her commitment to uplifting her community through economic empowerment and job creation.

In conclusion, the wisdom shared by these remarkable African Americans offers a mosaic of insights for those navigating the intricate terrain of work and career. From Booker T. Washington’s emphasis on overcoming obstacles to Ava DuVernay’s call to find joy in the work we do, each perspective contributes to a collective narrative of resilience, empowerment, and the pursuit of excellence. As you continue to shape your professional journeys, may these words of wisdom serve as guiding lights, inspiring you to overcome challenges, celebrate victories, and contribute to a future where opportunities abound for each one of you.

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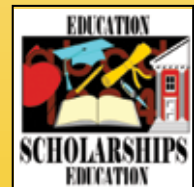
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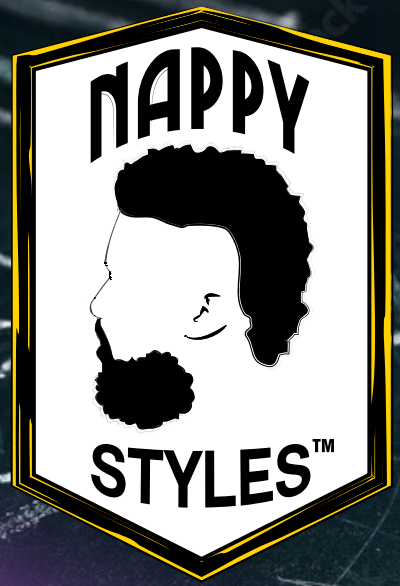
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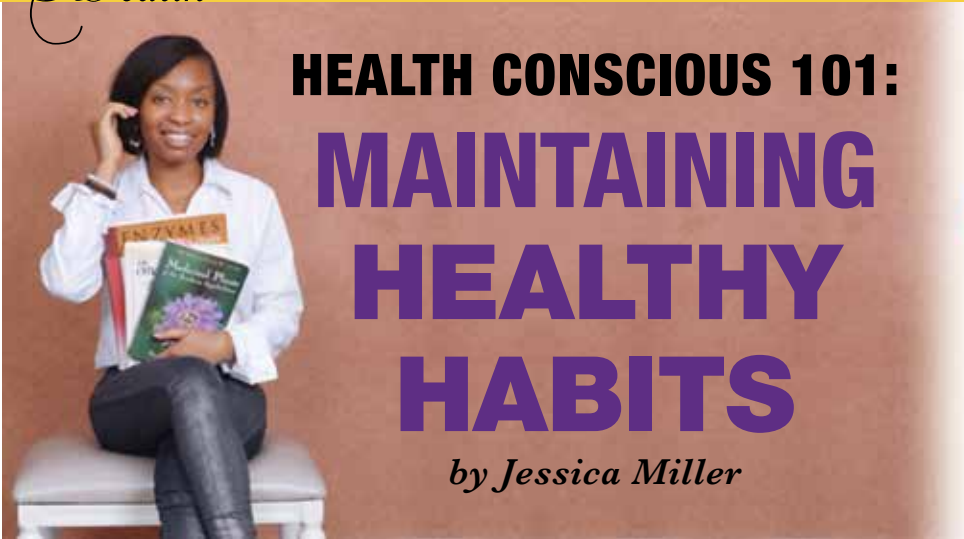


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HEALTH CONSCIOUS 101: MAINTAINING HEALTHY HABITS

by Jessica Miller



It's important to acknowledge that none of us are perfect, and there are times when maintaining healthy habits can be challenging. We've all experienced moments of inconsistency on our journey towards well-being. The key is to approach these lapses with understanding, learn from them, and strive for progress rather than perfection in cultivating a healthier lifestyle. Developing positive habits can significantly enhance both your physical and mental well-being, boost productivity, and propel you towards achieving your goals. Moreover, cultivating good habits increases the likelihood of consistently making healthy choices and maintaining organizational discipline in various aspects of life. Lets check out some new habits to incorporate!

• Optimize Your Posture:

Maintaining good posture is crucial for your overall well-being. Be mindful of your ergonomics, especially when at your desk, to prevent discomfort and strain. Steer clear of "Text Neck" by minimizing the time spent looking down at your phone or other devices. Incorporate Walking Breaks: Integrate walking breaks into your workday routine. Not only does this provide a refreshing pause, but it also contributes to combating the #1 health issue affecting Americans—back pain.

Both posture awareness and moderate exercise play key roles in promoting a healthier and more resilient lifestyle.

• Staying Hydrated for Well-being:

Ensuring an adequate daily water intake is essential for numerous health benefits. Hydration is key to preventing dehydration, supporting clear thinking, enhancing mood, and maintaining kidney health. Given that your body is predominantly composed of water, meeting your hydration needs is fundamental for proper bodily function.

Health Benefits of Drinking Water:

1. Energy for Exercise: Stay hydrated to maintain the energy needed for regular exercise.
2. Digestive Health: Promote healthy bowel movements and regular urination, facilitating the elimination of waste and toxins from the body.
3. Joint Lubrication: Keep joints well-lubricated for optimal mobility and comfort.
4. Temperature Regulation: Contribute to maintaining a healthy body temperature.
5. Weight Management: Support your weight management goals by incorporating sufficient water intake.

• Embracing Consistent Exercise for Total Well-being:

Regular exercise is a holistic practice that extends its benefits beyond physical health, positively impacting mental well-being as well. Engaging in physical activity contributes to a healthy heart, prevents high blood pressure, and fortifies muscles and bones. The release of endorphins, often referred to as the brain's "feel-good" chemicals, not only enhances mood but also diminishes symptoms of negative mental health conditions such as anxiety and depression.

• Prioritizing Sound Sleep Habits for Overall Wellness:

Achieving a full night of rest goes beyond mere feelings of refreshment; it plays a crucial role in supporting your entire body and overall health. Good sleep is a cornerstone of well-being, influencing metabolism, mental health, and immune system function while also helping to prevent weight gain and more. Embracing good "sleep hygiene" involves not only ensuring an adequate duration of sleep but also focusing on its restorative quality.

Essentials of Good Sleep Hygiene:

1. Adequate Duration: Aim for the recommended 7 hours or more of sleep to support your body's essential functions.

2. **Restorative Sleep:** Ensure that your sleep is restorative, free from disruptions that can lead to waking up feeling tired. Factors such as waking up in the middle of the night or persistent tossing and turning can impact the quality of your sleep.

• **Embrace the Outdoors for Holistic Well-being:**

Regular exposure to fresh air and nature is a vital component of a healthy lifestyle. Breaking away from indoor environments is essential as constantly breathing recycled, stale air may expose you to indoor pollutants that can impact your health. Here's why incorporating fresh air and nature into your routine is beneficial. Incorporating outdoor activities into your routine not only provides physical benefits but also nurtures mental and emotional well-being. Make it a priority to step outside, breathe in the fresh air, and immerse yourself in the rejuvenating influence of nature regularly.

What's Next?

It's crucial to understand that leading a healthy life demands effort, but the rewards are unquestionably worth it. In today's society, rife with chronic diseases, taking proactive steps to maintain your health and prevent illnesses has never been more important. Adopting a healthy lifestyle is a continuous journey, and finding the right balance may involve some trial and error.

Key Points:

Ongoing Journey: A healthy lifestyle is not a destination but a continuous journey. It requires consistent effort and a commitment to well-being.

Trial and Error: Achieving optimal health may involve experimentation to discover what works best for you. It's okay to learn through trial and error and make adjustments accordingly.

Professional Guidance: Your doctor is a valuable resource in navigating your health journey. They can assess your current state of health and provide personalized recommendations for lifestyle changes that will benefit you.

In the face of a society marked by chronic diseases, the effort invested in maintaining a healthy lifestyle becomes a powerful tool for preventing illness and promoting long-term well-being. Remember that the journey is unique to each individual, and with dedication and professional guidance, you can embark on a path toward a healthier and more fulfilling life.



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Tell it, tell it, tell it, tell it like it is.

Sweet land of liberty. Oh, how you forgot about me.

Please hear my plea. I'm down on bended knee.

I'm asking, why in the hell aren't I free?

You don't see me as a man.

You value me less than the contents in your trash can.

Reality of the Constitution is nothing more than disillusionment.

If your eyes aren't blue, then they look straight through you.

As if you don't even exist. They dismiss the validity of my human rights.

My blood shed from vicious dog bites.

My choices are to live as a slave or dig my own grave.

I am not free.

There is no land of liberty for me.

America, America I was whipped and shackled on slave ships.

I was emasculated, sold, and separated from my family.

You stole my lineage.

Tell it, tell it, tell it like it is.

This is the story of a man without glory.

I had to fight to my death to aid the white man to increase his wealth.

*I picked cotton all day in the sweltering heat without rest,
until you said I was done.*

I escaped the South and fled North.

Lynch mobs set forth to hang me from the tallest tree.

*Or hog tie me and drag me behind a pickup with a confederate flag
and no chance to flee.*

1865, 1963, 1966, 2013, 2020; the years keep passing by.

I fought side-by-side in the battle cry.

And yet you still don't respect me as a man.

*The Klu Klux Klan and white supremacists impart generational,
brainwashing and exacting terror.*

I doubt in the celebration of liberty if a Black man will ever truly be free.

I will continue to seek Justice. Just us is who I continue to fight for.

Until my last breath. Until I don't have to fight no more.



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Many are aware...etched in Black America, in the early 1900s, is the iconic Madam C.J. Walker who along with other trailblazers like Annie Turnbo Malone carved out a significant place in history for sought after hair care products, styling know-how, tools and education.

She PRESSED!

But what is notably interesting is Walker's imprint in the Guinness Book as being the first "female" self-made millionaire in America. If you notice, the statement does not say first Black female. But she was actually recorded as the *first female* of any race in America to make millions from her entrepreneurial enterprise! I think many times this point of interest is overlooked.

Can you imagine for a moment of reflection and appreciation how difficult and challenging it must have been to accomplish such a great feat!

Although Walker was sometimes criticized for offering hair straightening as an alternative to wearing naturally curly or coily hair, it seems that her focus was mainly motivated by changing the negative view of what was then called nappy hair by other races..a term also adopted by Blacks and considered a problem.

Attention Please

Because of the attention and desire to

change the narrative...many generations later the conversation and access to newer innovations in Black hair care products, tools and education continue to evolve helping shape how we view what is called today, textured hair.

Appreciate the Work!

We can now celebrate and embrace textured hair as beautiful hair across the globe, or wear it straight if we so choose. It was because of the brave steps that legends like Madam C.J. Walker took, against adversity and challenges, that helped press the hair conversation forward to embrace and care for the beauty in Black hair.

For Thought:

What can you do this time of year to move the needle forward towards positive future changes on campus, in your family, in your social groups, in your local community or even for someone or a group of people in a different country?

- Dream it,
- Implement it,
- Work it,
- Change it!

#AppreciateTheTrailblazersInBlackHistory

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IMMERSION EXPERIENCE: STUDENTS VISIT GARINAGU PEOPLE OF BELIZE

By Rachael Battle, Ph.D.



Students enrolled in an Introduction to African Diaspora course facilitated by the College of Arts, Social Sciences and Humanities had the privilege to take their learning beyond the classroom. From May 5 to May 19, 2023, they experienced the African Diaspora. This practical learning experience deepened their understanding and knowledge of the subject matter.

Nine students from North Carolina Central University (NCCU) traveled to Belize, a Central American country bordered on the north by Mexico, south and west by Guatemala and east by the Caribbean Sea. During their visit, they had the opportunity to interact with the Garifuna people.

The Garifuna, also known as the Garinagu people of Belize, are descendants of West African captives and Arawaks or Red Caribs who migrated from St. Vincent Island following conflicts between the French and Spaniards. Banished from the Island of St. Vincent to the barren island of Baliceaux, the Garinagu, known as the purest forms of Africans

in the Diaspora, by anthropologist Sheila. S Walker traveled down the Central American coast in canoes from Roatan and eventually settled in Belize in the early 1800s.

The Introduction to African Diaspora course provided an immersive and authentic experience of the Garinagu people, with a strong emphasis on daily mindfulness practices, language lessons and academic activities, all aimed at capturing the essence of the Garifuna culture.

This immersion incorporated experiences in the Garifuna language, spirituality, music, dance, food, and an in-depth exploration of the journey and resilience of the Garinagu people. Designed with emphasis on the areas of interest of each student including art, architecture, mass communications, music, mental health and maternal issues, African spirituality and history.

Promise Providence, a junior majoring in psychology, stated: "Belize was the dawn of my spiritual awakening. Previously I started my spiritual journey of the alignment of my higher self.

Belize has shed a light on how I plan to move through life as a resource here on Earth."

Imara Harrell, a senior majoring in mass communications, stated: "I was surprised how they stick to tradition." Harvesting on a farm, for example, is done with machetes rather than machines. Imara also found life to be more relaxed. "I feel people (in the United States) are stressed about everything," she said.

"There, you just live life," stated Brianna Spruill, a junior studying psychology. "You are immersing, not just sitting in the classroom. Living specific experiences and getting to dine with Garifuna people and being in a lot of these sacred spaces."

Dean Carlton Wilson, Ph.D., would like international travel to become a regular part of the student experience at NCCU.

"I hope that this will not be a one-time experience," Wilson said. "We would like to bring a sense of internationalism to the students."

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TSU ENJOYS PRIVATE SCREENING COURTESY OF ALUMNA OPRAH WINFREY

by: Alexis Clark



A Christmas gift arrived early for TSU, and it was wrapped in the color purple. TSU alumna Oprah Winfrey treated the Tennessee State University community to an early Christmas celebration with an exclusive screening of *The Color Purple* ahead of its official debut on Christmas Day. Over 150 students, staff, and community members gathered at the event, dressed in hues of purple to honor the highly anticipated movie.



All dressed in purple, Dr. Glenda Glover embraces and engages in conversation with participants at 'The Color Purple' movie screening held at Regal Hollywood theater.

Prior to the movie starting TSU President Glenda Glover expressed her gratitude. "We are thankful to Ms. Winfrey for her thoughtfulness and for giving her TSU family an advanced screening of the film before its opening on Christmas Day."

Timothy Brewer Jr., a senior studying agricultural sciences said it was a great moment for students, faculty, and alumni to come together and recognize this film. "I love that this is a TSU exclusive," he said. "It shows the potential of the current students at the university, and what we can achieve because our alumni are setting the paths of what dreams are made of."

As students enjoyed the musical remake of *The Color Purple*, Shaniya Harris, a junior studying psychology, shared her



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appreciation. “The movie was great. I became even more grateful for what women have now because the norm was for us to be treated any kind of way,” she said.



Zaya Bryant, left, and Shaniya Harris at regal Hollywood theater snacking on popcorn at The Color Purple movie screening

Zaya Bryant, a TSU junior and Nashville native, mentioned that she didn’t fully appreciate the original movie’s magnitude when she was younger. “So, having the opportunity to see this with my TSU community is great. I can take in what our TSU alumna has done, and it makes everything feel really full circle,” said Bryant, who is an early childhood education major.

TSU’s generosity extended beyond the campus by partnering with the YWCA and invited their clients. Dr. Daffany Baker, Vice President of domestic violence services of YWCA Nashville & Middle Tennessee, coordinated the trip and brought 20 clients from their Weaver Domestic Violence center and their family members to view the screening.



Timothy Brewer Jr., said it was a great moment for students, faculty, and alumni to come together and recognize this film produced by alumna Oprah Winfrey.

“The color that represents domestic violence is purple,” Baker said, noting that their mission of eliminating racism

and empowering women correlated with the movie regarding growth, transition, and prosperity.

“Just to see how our clients felt was amazing,” she said. “They loved it and felt very encouraged. They were overjoyed to come to a movie in general. We are grateful that TSU allowed us the opportunity to share the screening of The Color Purple.”

Sharon K. Roberson, President and CEO of YWCA Nashville & Middle Tennessee also noted how this film mirrors their mission and expressed appreciation for this opportunity.

“It’s a blessing to be able to share this gift with survivors who have turned to us in their greatest time of need, and we hope the movie will inspire women to continue their journey of freedom, safety, and empowerment,” Roberson said.



Dr. Daffany Baker, Vice President of domestic violence services of YWCA Nashville & Middle Tennessee, takes a selfie with Dr. Glover before watching the musical remake of The Color Purple.

Before the screening began, Oprah Winfrey sent a heartfelt video message to her alma mater and those attending the screening.

“I don’t even have the words to say how happy I am to have you all gathered here tonight for this advance screening of The Color Purple.” Winfrey said in the video. “I wanted to create a special moment for you all, for my TSU community and family. TSU! TSU! I wish you all a wonderful holiday season. I hope you come away from this event this evening with your spirit full, that your heart is filled with joy, and you’re looking forward to the future and know that anything is possible when you notice the color purple.”

The Color Purple opens in theaters on Christmas Day with a star-studded cast, including American Idol winner Fantasia Barrino and Oscar nominated actress Taraji P. Henson.

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WHAT'S HOT ON THE NET!

HAPPY NEW YEAR AND WELCOME BACK TO BCT'S WHAT'S HOT ON THE NET!!! WE'RE BRINGING YOU THE LATEST NEWS ON CELEBRITIES ACROSS THE WORLD SO LET'S GET INTO IT!!!

New Year and New Goals for **Rick Ross!** Rozay recently went on IG live to share that he and his trainer are working hard to get in shape to climb **Mount Kilimanjaro!** This follows a mention in 2022 when Ross was on a podcast and made the announcement. It looks like Rozay is here for it this year!

The first R&B concert of the year kicks off in February! **Keyshia Cole** headlines the **Love Hard Tour!** **Trey Songz, Jaheim and K. Michelle** join Keyshia on this 24-city tour! Get your tickets while you can. There are tons of classics between the four of them and you know we are going to be there!

In 1947, **Larry Doby** became the second African American player to break baseball's color barrier and led Cleveland to a World Series championship the following year. Recently, he received the **Congressional Gold Medal** in a posthumous tribute held at the U.S.

Capitol in Washington on what would have been his 100th birthday. The baseball star's son, Larry Doby Jr., accepted the medal on behalf of his late father.

Although he is not as well-known as **Jackie Robinson**, Larry Doby was a well-known player in the **Negro Leagues**. He joined **Major League Baseball** three months after Jackie Robinson and faced similar challenges and discrimination. Larry Doby is the first black player in the American League where he played for Cleveland and later the Chicago White Sox.

It looks like fans will get what we've been waiting for! Recently, **Juice WRLD's** mother made a major announcement when she revealed that **Lil Bibby** is going to help her lead the way to deliver another Juice WRLD album in 2024! Juice WRLD passed away in 2019 but his legacy lives on. In 2022, he became the first artist to have four albums each selling 500,000 or more copies within

a calendar year. The upcoming album will be titled, **The Party Never Ends**. We can't wait!

Nicki Minaj recently released her long-awaited album, **Pink Friday 2**. Everyone is raving about the album! Nicki also let everyone in on a little more information by stating that her documentary that she first gave us a glimpse of in 2020 should be released soon! Nicki is hitting the road and going on tour in March. It looks like the documentary should be released prior to that!

As far as new music goes, here is what we're listening to:

Nicki Minaj - Pink Friday 2

Polo G - Hood Poet

Dave East & Cruch Calhoun - 30 For 30

Usher - Coming Home

Benny The Butcher - Everybody Can't Go

THAT'S IT FOR THIS EDITION OF WHAT'S HOT ON THE NET!!! BE ON THE LOOKOUT FOR MORE CELEBRITY NEWS NEXT TIME IN BCT!!!

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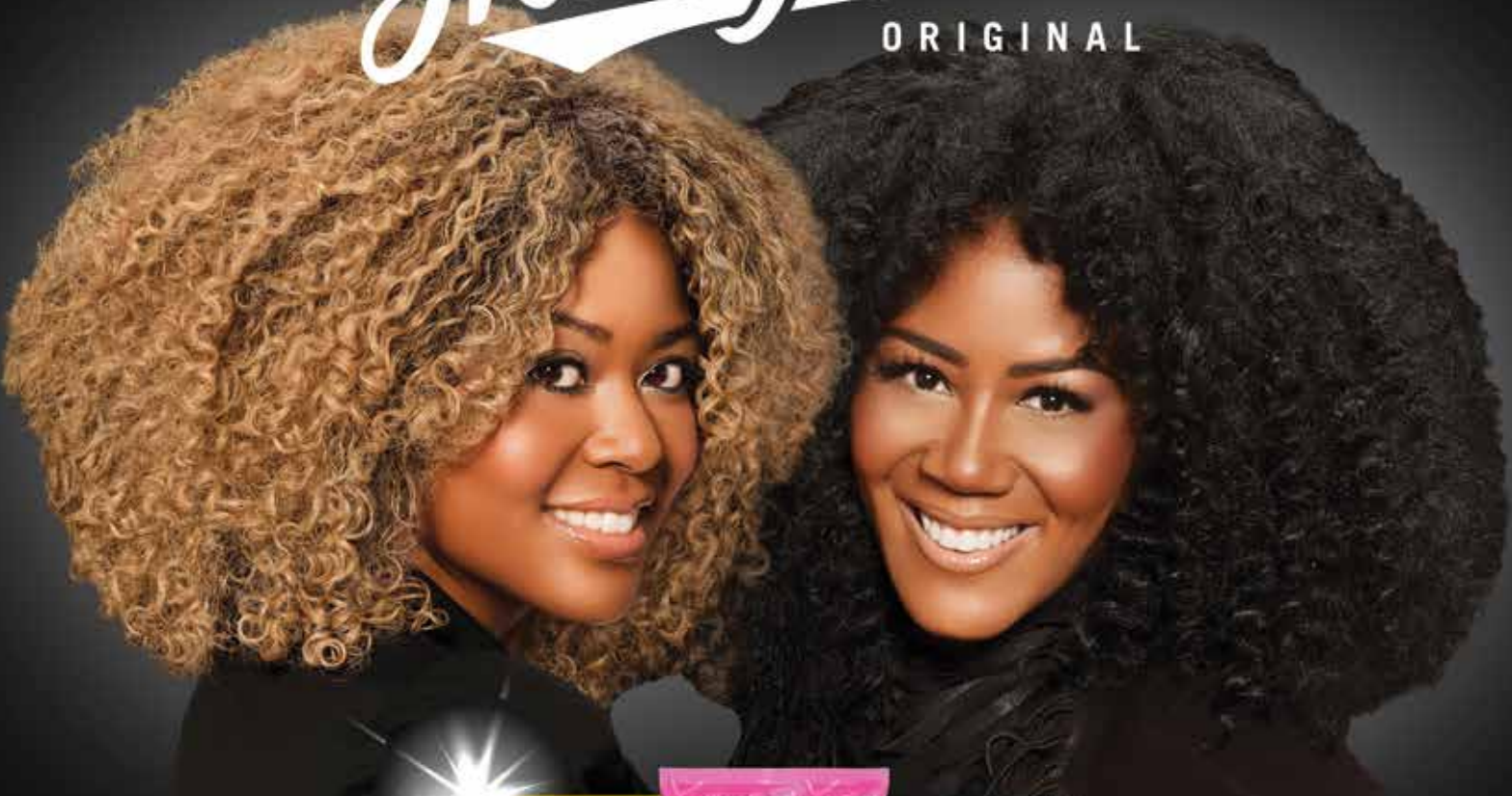
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