

Anti-Racist Task Force

Kent State University School of Teaching, Learning and Curriculum Studies

February 2021 Newsletter
Volume 1, Issue 3

TLC's Vision: Fostering courageous thought, innovative research and practices, and local and global community engagement for a more just world.

Welcome!

Happy Black History Month! Although February is almost over, members of the Anti-Racist Task Force (and we hope you, too!) recognize the necessity of celebrating Black history all year long – not just in the month of February. An outgrowth of “Negro History Week,” a concept attributed to noted historian Carter G. Woodson, Black History Month has been celebrated in the United States since 1976.

Accordingly, we sent an invitation to attend a critical conversation on Black History Month (and its contradictions) and how, as faculty, we can begin to talk about ways we might work to extend teaching and learning about members of the Black community year-round. In addition to talking, we also hope to foster a

community in which faculty commit to actionable steps that we will feel comfortable sharing with each other/ a partner as a way to explicitly model for students and the University at large, ways that we are meeting some of the goals we espouse. This second conversation in this series of talks will be led by Dr. Rhonda Hylton, a member of the Anti-Racist Task Force, but we invite faculty from all groups to attend and share insights.

This issue of the newsletter features new resources about how to talk to children and students about the ugliness of racism; ways faculty members can become keenly aware of our prejudices concerning how students speak and write in our classrooms, especially when those ways contradict how we expect or think they should speak and write; and how we might think about teaching critical issues in tumultuous times. As always, we hope you find these items helpful within your teaching, but also within your personal relationships with family members, friends, and community members.

Anti-Racist Task Force: Rhonda Hylton, Elizabeth Kenyon, Doug Ellison, Lisa Testa, Bridget Mulvey, Jen Walton-Fisette, and Marty Lash

“Many American public schools offer only sanitized versions of slavery and the civil rights movement, along with biographies of a handful of figures who are ‘palatable to white audiences’.”

- LaGarrett J. King,
Associate Professor of Social Studies
Education, University of Missouri

Websites



“BUT WHAT WILL WE TELL THE CHILDREN?”, posted on January 7, 2021 by Black&Smart
<https://blackandsmart.wordpress.com/2021/01/07/but-what-will-we-tell-the-children/>

10 Ways to Tackle Linguistic Bias in Our Classrooms, posted on Inside Higher Ed
<https://www.insidehighered.com/advice/2021/01/27/how-professors-can-and-should-combat-linguistic-prejudice-their-classes-opinion>

Why is Black History Month in February? How do you celebrate? Everything you need to know,
N’dea Yancey-Bragg (USA TODAY)

<https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2021/02/01/black-history-month-2021-how-celebrate-what-know/4292640001/>

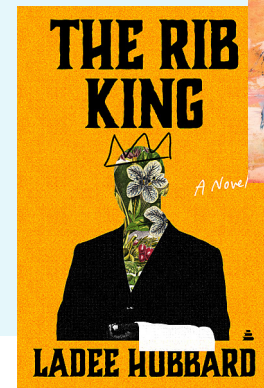
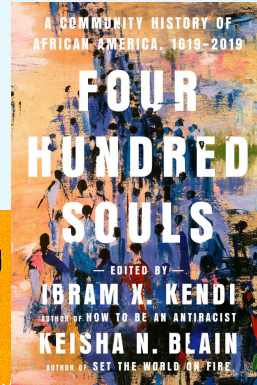
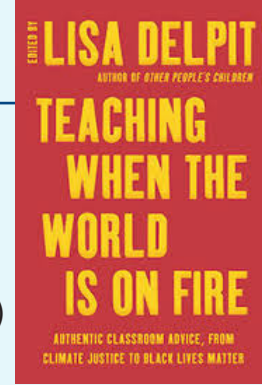
Books

Teaching When the World Is on Fire: Authentic Classroom Advice, from Climate Justice to Black Lives Matter, edited by Lisa Delpit (New Press, 2019)

Recommended by Dr. Elizabeth Kenyon: "A timely collection of advice and strategies for creating a just classroom from educators across the country, handpicked by MacArthur Genius and bestselling author Lisa Delpit."

Four Hundred Souls: A Community History of African America, 1619-2019, edited by Ibram X. Kendi and Keisha N. Blain (One World, 2021)

The Rib King by Ladee Hubbard (Amistad Press, 2021)



Podcasts & Documentaries

Dear Culture: the Podcast – A Smart Black News Podcast For The Culture
<https://dearculturepod.com>

Historically Black uses personal objects to map Black history. Each episode explores the story behind a listener-submitted artifact—a photograph, an instrument, a piece of jewelry—and in the process creates a sort of “people’s museum” that honors the lived experiences of various Black Americans. Created in conjunction with the Smithsonian’s National Museum of African American History and Culture, it’s a unique and intimate way to approach history, illuminating the ways the personal can be fiercely tied to the political.

<https://features.apmreports.org/historically-black/>

The New York Times’ 1619 podcast, a seminal examination of the history and lasting legacy of American slavery

<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/01/23/podcasts/1619-podcast.html>



Campus Resource: Student Multicultural Center

<https://www.kent.edu/smc/black-history-month>

www.kent.edu/ehhs/tlcs/anti-racism-education-resources

404 White Hall, Kent State University
330-672-2580