



State of North Carolina

ROY COOPER
GOVERNOR

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

2022

BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

A PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, Black History Month reminds us of our responsibility to honor the contributions and achievements of African Americans and their pivotal role in shaping our state and nation; and

WHEREAS, North Carolina is home to the largest number of four-year, degree-granting Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) in the nation; our ten HBCUs have a rich heritage steeped in tradition, activism, service, and innovation dating back to the foundation of Shaw University in 1865; and

WHEREAS, North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University leads the nation in cutting-edge scientific research and produces the greatest number of African American engineers and agricultural scientists in the country and North Carolina Central University was the first HBCU to host a National Science Foundation Institute for secondary school educators; and

WHEREAS, African Americans have long played a vital role in advancing science, technology, engineering, and math in our state; African American women from North Carolina were early contributors to science professions, including NASA mathematician Dr. Christine Darden, scientist Ida Stevens Owens, who in 1967 became the first African American woman to receive a Ph.D. from Duke University, and chemist Mary Elliot Hill, who contributed to the development of plastics; and

WHEREAS, North Carolina has cultivated rich contributors to STEM education, including Murfreesboro native Lee Vernon Stiff, a decorated mathematics educator and early leader in equitable STEM education; and

WHEREAS, African Americans have long been advocates for land and environmental stewardship, and African Americans in Warren County, North Carolina sparked the contemporary environmental justice movement in 1982; and

WHEREAS, African Americans in North Carolina remain vocal advocates for environmental and climate justice, and diversity, equity, and inclusion in STEM, including organizers of Black Birders Week and Engineers Expo, state leaders for Black Girls CODE, and founders of Earthseed Land Cooperative, Renewable Energy Transition Initiative, Do Greater Charlotte, and Smart Girls HQ; and

WHEREAS, African Americans in North Carolina continue to foster innovations in a variety of STEM fields, like agricultural sciences, ethnobotany, microbiology, urban ecology, soil science and renewable energy; and

WHEREAS, this year's theme, Science and Environmental Justice, aims to address the need for transparency and equity in how government and corporate decision making affects underserved communities, recognizing that all people have a right to clean air, clean water, clean soil, and a stable climate, and deserve an opportunity to participate fully and meaningfully in decisions that affect their living environment;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, ROY COOPER, Governor of the State of North Carolina, do hereby proclaim February 2022, as "BLACK HISTORY MONTH" in North Carolina, and commend its observance to all citizens.





Roy Cooper
Governor

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Great Seal of the State of North Carolina at the Capitol in Raleigh this twenty-eighth day of January in the year of our Lord two thousand and twenty-two and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and forty-sixth.