RICHLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT TWO

BLACK HISTORY MONTH HONOREE

2025-2026 Calendar

RICHLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT TWO

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Honoree Class

CLASS OF 2018

Ms. Roni Henderson - Art and Music
Mr. Charles Cherry - Art and Music
Ms. Tracy Oliver - Art and Music
Dr. Baron Davis - Education
Dr. Cheryl Caution-Parker - Education
Mr. Greg Scott - Education
Mr. Preston Thorne - Education
Ret. Chaplain Col. Clark McGriff - Public Service
Dr. Mojibola O. Solaja - Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics
Dr. Gerald Wilson - Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics
Dr. Hilton Maria Shaw Gilbert - Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics
Mr. Anthony Lawrence - Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics
Mrs. Evangelina Hemphill - Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics

CLASS OF 2019

Pastor Travis Greene - Art and Music
Dr. Gloria Boutte - Education
Dr. Sandra Hamlin - Education
Mrs. Annie E. Hanberry (deceased) - Education
Dr. Shawn Suber - Education
Ms. Kiva Wilson - Public Service
Brigadier General Milford Beagle, Jr. - Public Service
The Honorable Deandrea Benjamin - Public Service
Mrs. Judi Gatson - Public Service
Mr. Larry “Griff” Griffin - Public Service
The Honorable Calvin “Chip” Jackson (deceased) - Public Service
Pastor Chris Leevy Johnson - Public Service
Ms. Brenda C. Murphy - Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics

CLASS OF 2020

Ms. Chantal Maurice - Art and Music
Mr. John W. Jones - Art and Music
Ms. Linda Goodwin - Education
Ms. Kathy Carroll - Education
Mr. Warren Wise - Education
Mr. Sam P. Johnson - Public Service
Pastor Simeon Moultrie - Public Service

CLASS OF 2021

Ms. Chakalah Crawford - Art and Music
Mr. DeMario Priester - Art and Music
Mrs.Theresa Counts-Davis - Education
Dr. Ronald Rhames - Education
Mr. Roger Wiley - Education
The Honorable Gretchen Barron - Public Service
The Honorable Mia McLeod - Public Service
Ms. Ija Charles - Public Service
Mr. Fred Henley - Public Service
Dr. Linda Bell - Health, Science Technology and Engineering
Dr. Jamelle Ellis - Health, Science Technology and Engineering
Ms. Ebony Langhorne - Health, Science Technology and Engineering

CLASS OF 2022

Ms. Kristin Claiborne - Art and Music
Mr. Andre DeLaine - Art and Music
Mr. Antonio Kenion - Art and Music
Dr. Walter Curry, Jr. - Education
Joseph Bias, Esquire - Education
Dr. Derrick Wise - Education
Dr. Joseph Watson - Education
Dr. George Ashford, Jr. - Public Service
Tameika Isaac Devine, Esquire - Public Service
Mr. Michael Toliver - Public Service
Ms. Ashleigh Edwards - Health, Science Technology and Engineering
Dr. Kimberly Mulligan - Health, Science Technology and Engineering
Dr. Henry Marion - Health, Science Technology and Engineering
Dr. Jason Williams - Health, Science Technology and Engineering

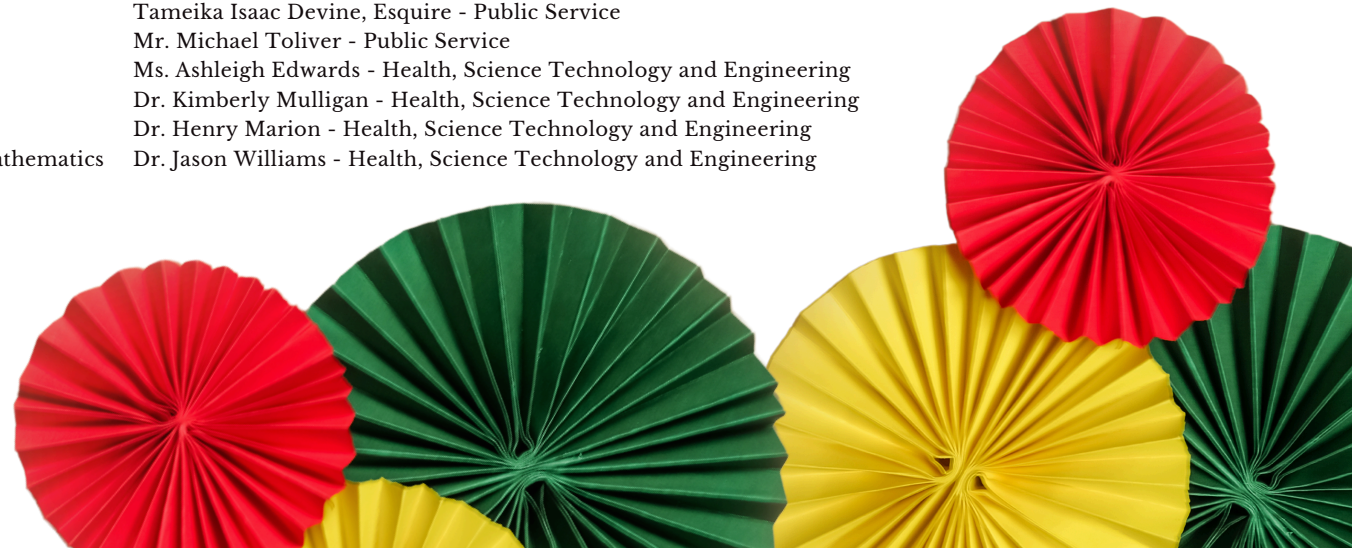
CLASS OF 2023

Ms. Jennifer Bartell Boykin - Art & Music
Mr. Vincent Thomas - Art & Music
Dr. Chandra Cleveland - Public Service
Ms. Naida Rutherford - Public Service
Dr. Rodney Reid - Health
Dr. Bobby Cunningham - Education
Ms. Alvera C. Butler - Education
Dr. Florene Hanley-Fulks - Education
Dr. Cedrek L. McFadden, M.D. - Health

CLASS OF 2024

Mr. Phillip Michael Gilchrist - Art & Music
Mrs. Georgette Council - Education
Ms. Denise Jonell Clark- Education
Dr. Marshalynn M. Franklin - Education
Mrs. Darci Strickland Rush - Public Service
Mr. Jonathan Franklin - Public Service
Ms. Nicole Miller-English - Public Service
The Streater Family - Public Service
Dr. Kenya Cooper - Health





2025 January

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
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19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

Important Dates

1 - New Year's Day
10 - George Washington Carver's Birthday
12 - Congressional Black Caucus organized, 1971
20 - Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
27 - Leontyne Price debuted at the Metropolitan Opera House, 1961

THE 2024 RICHLAND TWO BLACK HISTORY MONTH HONOREES



2025 February

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
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MORE ABOUT OUR BLACK HISTORY MONTH HONOREES

We celebrate and thank each class of Richland School District Two Black History Month Honorees.

Honorees are recognized for their work in the areas of Art and Music; Education; Public Service (Government, Faith-Based, Military, and Social Justice); and/or Health, Science, Technology, Math, or Engineering.

These distinguished Honorees continue to provide leadership and inspiration in our community and we are grateful for their service to our school district.

"This celebration is just one of many ways we strive to make sure all of our Richland Two community feels seen, heard, valued and engaged. The calendar is designed to showcase individuals who live, work and/or have significant contact with Richland Two so that everyone will see the importance of community engagement at the local level."

- Dr. Helen N. Grant, Chief Family and Community Engagement Officer

Important Dates

12 - NAACP founded, 1909
14 - Valentine's Day
20 - USPS issued Jean Baptiste Pointe DuSable (Father of Chicago) postage stamp, 1987
24 - R2 Black History Month Honoree Recognition

2024 BLACK HISTORY MONTH HONOREE

Education

Denise Jonell

CLARK





2025 March

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
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MORE ABOUT DENISE JONELL CLARK

Ms. Clark is a passionate teacher with 16 years of experience in the elementary and middle school settings. She is also a Restorative Practice and Social Emotional Learning Facilitator with a demonstrated track record of successfully working with diverse student and adult populations in one on one and group settings. Ms. Clark believes in the power of being an empathetic and trauma sensitive classroom educator who uses rigorous interventions to build student confidence.

Ms. Clark is the founder of Restoratively Yours and LEGASC. She is the author of three growth mindset and social emotional interactive books and she is a Breathe for Change Certified Trauma-Informed Yoga Instructor.

Important Dates

6 - Dred Scott case decided by US Supreme Court, 1857
7 - Eli Whitney patented the Cotton Gin, 1794
10 - Harriet Tubman died, 1913
12 - Andrew Young's Birthday


2024 BLACK HISTORY MONTH HONOREE
Education
Dr. Marshalynn
MORGAN FRANKLIN

2025 April

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
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MORE ABOUT DR. MARSHALYNN FRANKLIN

Dr. Marshalynn Franklin is known and revered for her wisdom, experience, expert advice and her ability to coach educational professionals. She is the Deputy Superintendent for Richland School District Two and uses her critical thinking and master communication skills to provide support to the District Superintendent and to all areas of Leadership and Administration in the District. She has served as a teacher, Assistant Principal, Principal, Assistant Superintendent and now Deputy Superintendent.

Dr. Franklin coaches principals and teachers to realize every child has a gift and that their impact as educators can go beyond one student; it has the potential to change an entire family's mindset toward education.

Believing in the obligation to give back to her community, Dr. Franklin is an author of a book on classroom management for teachers.

Important Dates

3 - Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr's "Been to the Mountaintop Speech", 1968
4 - Maya Angelou's Birthday | Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr's death, 1968
10 - Jackie Robinson signed with Brooklyn Dodgers, 1947
11 - Federal Fair Housing Act enacted, 1968
16 - Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr's "Letter from Birmingham Jail", 1963
20 - Steve Benjamin elected as Columbia, SC's first black mayor, 2010


2024 BLACK HISTORY MONTH HONOREE
Public Service
Darci
STRICKLAND RUSH

2025 May

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
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MORE ABOUT DARCI STRICKLAND RUSH

Darci Strickland Rush is a Richland Two parent and was previously an anchor and content manager at WLTX-TV in Columbia, SC where she appeared nightly on the evening newscasts. She exudes joy both on and off the air through her infectious smile. She is committed to the community and she is one of the most popular journalists in the Midlands area. Armed with a Journalism degree and a certificate in Broadcast Meteorology, Mrs. Strickland Rush joined WLTX in 1997. She was the station's most requested speaker by schools, charitable organizations, churches, and other associations statewide.

Over the years she has become well known as the spokesperson for Buddy Call 19, the station's project that encourages women to perform self-breast exams. She also led the recognition of great educators through the Teacher of the Week awards. She has won Emmys and an Alfred I. DuPont Award and Edward R. Murrow for her journalistic work. She volunteers with the Richland County Guardian ad Litem program and she is a board member for Workshop Theater. Darci Strickland Rush currently serves as the Senior Chief Communications Officer for Richland School District Two. She is also a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

Important Dates

3 - Septima Poinsette Clark born, 1898
13 - Robert Smalls liberated 16 slaves when he piloted a Confederate ship through the Charleston Harbor to Union forces, 1862
17 - Brown vs. Board of Education school desegregation case decided, 1954
30 - Denmark Versey slave insurrection plan discovered in Charleston, SC, 1822

2024 BLACK HISTORY MONTH HONOREE

Public Service

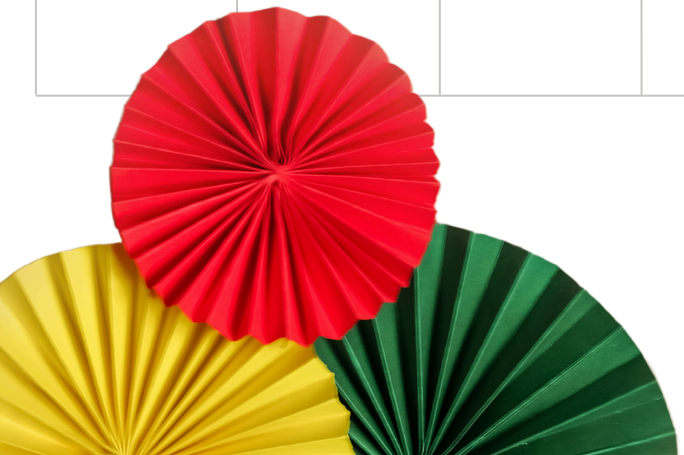


Jonathan FRANKLIN



2025 June

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
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MORE ABOUT JONATHAN FRANKLIN

A 2012 graduate of Richland Northeast High School and its convergence media magnet program, Mr. Jonathan Franklin is a reporter on the Newsdesk who covers race and identity and breaking news for NPR. He was awarded his undergraduate degree by Wofford College and graduated Summa Cum Laude from Georgetown University with a master's in Journalism (with an emphasis in broadcast and digital journalism). He began his journalism career as a news fellow and freelance journalist for WDCW in Washington, DC. He also was a digital multimedia journalist for WUSA, the CBS affiliate in Washington, DC where he covered the COVID-19 pandemic and its impact on the Black community, protests following the murder of George Floyd, the 2020 presidential election and the January 6th insurrection on the US Capitol.

At NPR, Mr. Franklin has been at the forefront of the reporting of many national stories including the Tops Supermarket mass shooting in Buffalo, NY, the U.S. Supreme Court's decision to overturn Roe v. Wade and the 2022 Russian invasion of Ukraine. His reporting can be seen and heard across NPR's digital, social and audio platforms, such as All Things Considered, Morning Edition and NPR News Now. He is also a frequent contributor to ESPN's The Right Time with Bomani Jones podcast.

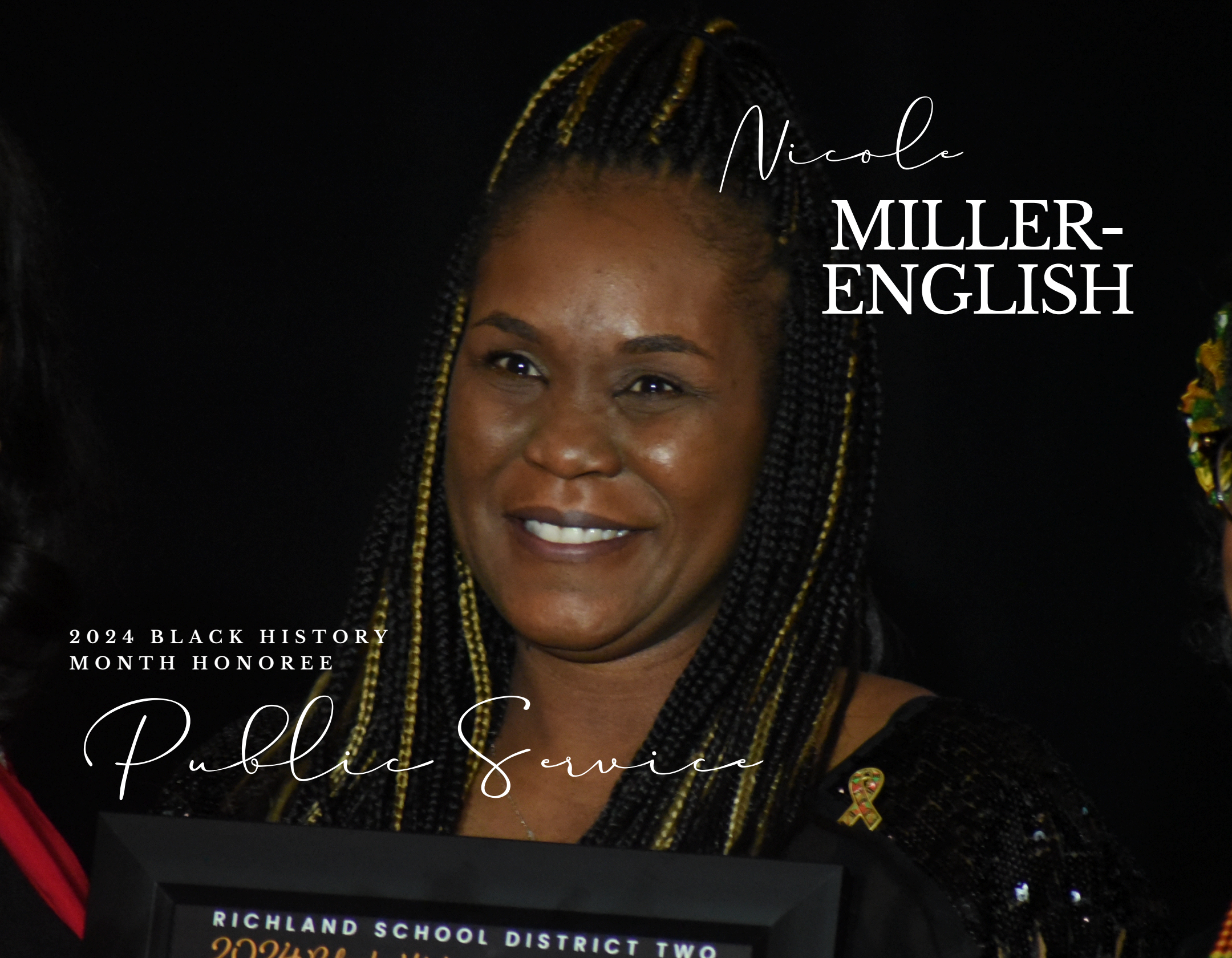
Important Dates

6 - Marian Wright Edelman born, 1939

17 - Mother Emanuel AME Church, Charleston, SC Massacre, 2015

19 - Juneteenth

22 - Sarah Mae Flemming was hit and removed from a Columbia, SC bus for sitting in the all White section, 1954



Nicole

MILLER-ENGLISH

2024 BLACK HISTORY MONTH HONOREE

Public Service

2025 July

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
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MORE ABOUT NICOLE MILLER-ENGLISH

Ms. Miller-English is not only a committed Richland Two bus driver who assists our special needs students and who also serves in the classroom during her non-driving time, but she also serves as a volunteer for Girl Scouts of America. Ms. Miller-English serves as a troop leader for a local troop of Richland District 2 and District 1 girls. She has continued to serve even beyond her children graduating out of Girl Scouts. She makes a huge impact in her local troop/community. In addition, Ms. Miller-English serves as a service unit leader, leading other troop leaders in the area and providing support, training, leadership, etc. to equip other troop leaders in their mission to serve their community.

Through her servanthood, Ms. Miller-English is able to inspire girls to be leaders in the areas of their gifts and talents. She also encourages them to embrace new opportunities and be a sister to every Girl Scout. Girl Scouts also take on service projects to enrich their communities, and Ms. Miller-English takes charge through her troop as well as the service unit she leads.

Important Dates

2 - US Civil Rights Act signed into law, 1964
5 - Matthew J. Perry, Jr. nominated to be federal judge for US District Court, 1979
10 - Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune born, 1875

2024 BLACK HISTORY MONTH HONOREE

Public Service

The Streater FAMILY



2025 August

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
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MORE ABOUT THE STREATER FAMILY

This family of extraordinary individuals has paved the way for many of our Richland Two community members to positively move forward in their lives through their work in employment, technology, business, education, sponsorships, scholarships, COVID relief, financial assistance and more. They are the owners of Extraordinary Headhunters, LLC where they believe in building relationships on a foundation of integrity, sincerity and trust. They specialize in providing manufacturing, healthcare/medical, information technology, human resources and clerical resources to assist with their clients' staffing needs. They also own Extraordinary Healing Wellness, LLC.

The Streaters believe in giving back to the community through college scholarships, covering costs for funerals, toy drives and financial donations to organizations in the community. Mrs. Kiara Streater leads the company and is an activist for positive growth. Her husband, Mr. Julius Streater is a Richland Northeast High School graduate and employee. Mrs. Brenda Streater is a former Richland Two teacher.

Important Dates

1 - Benjamin Mays was born, 1894

6 - US Voting Rights Law signed into law, 1965

11 - Viola Davis was born, 1965

25 - Creation of the first SC all black military regiment of the Civil War, 1862

28 - March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom, 1963

2024 BLACK HISTORY
MONTH HONOREE

Health

Dr. Kenya COOPER



2025 September

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
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MORE ABOUT DR. KENYA COOPER

Dr. Kenya Cooper is a 2006 graduate of Richland Northeast High School who currently serves as a Board Certified Family Medicine/Primary Care doctor at Lexington Family Practice in Gilbert, SC.

She is a superb physician who regularly treats her patients with care and maturity usually found in much more experienced doctors. She graduated from Boston University School of Medicine and performed her residency at Self Regional Healthcare in Family Medicine.

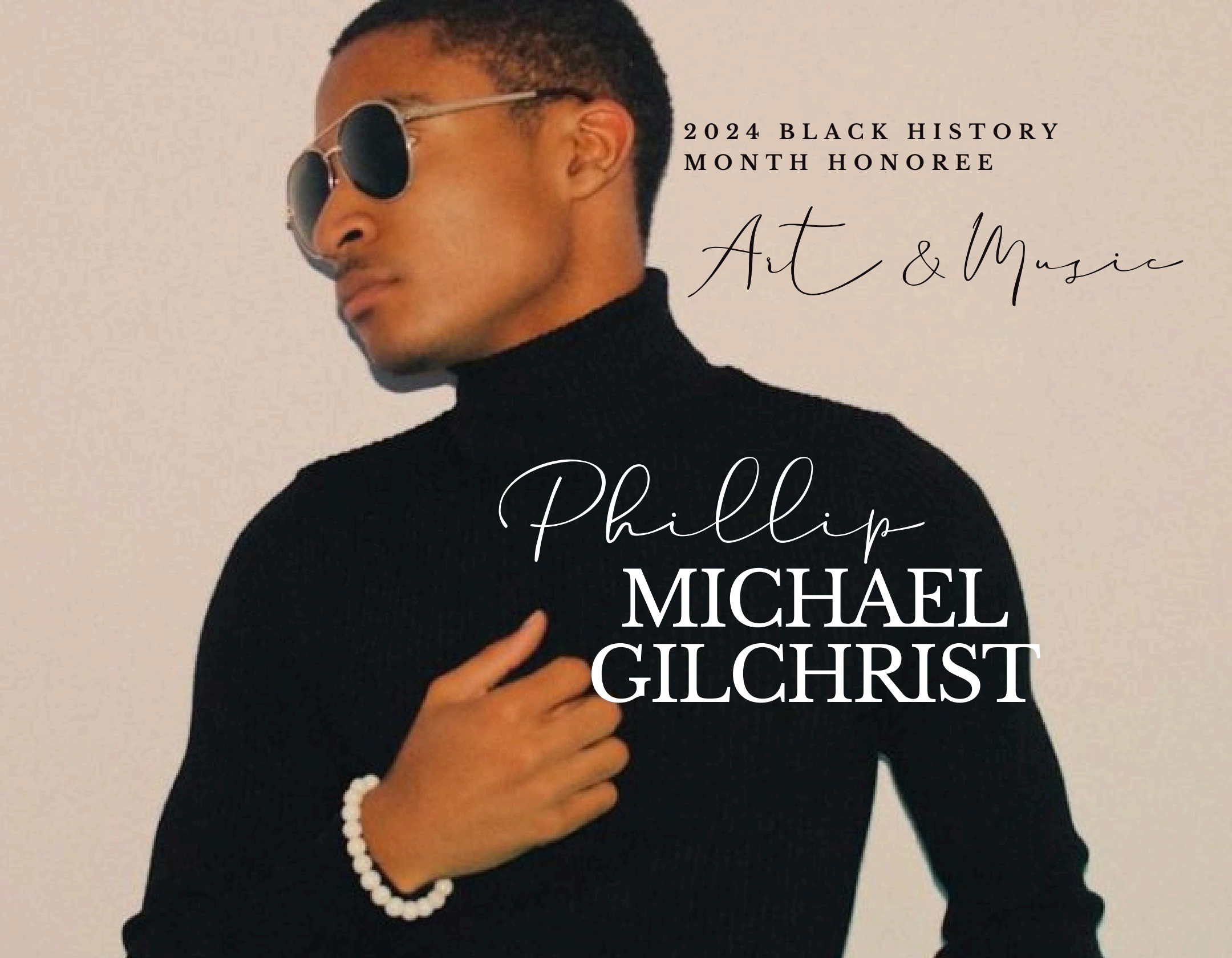
Important Dates

1 - Jasper Cureton sworn in as first Black American member of SC Appellate Court, 1983

7 - Celia Mann, midwife, property owner, free woman of color died, 1867

9 - The Stono Rebellion, 1739

11 - First Black students enroll in USC since Reconstruction, 1963



2024 BLACK HISTORY MONTH HONOREE

Art & Music

Phillip MICHAEL GILCHRIST

2025 October

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
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MORE ABOUT PHILLIP MICHAEL GILCHRIST

Mr. Gilchrist is a graduate of Spring Valley High School and is the Executor of Truescale Records in Columbia, SC. He uses his time and talents to help students across Richland Two expand their knowledge and appreciation for the arts and music industry. He is a recording artist and has produced for and collaborated with musicians across the musical spectrum. He is a multi-talented vocalist, instrumentalist and music theory expert.

Mr. Gilchrist is a composer whose work has been recognized by Disney, Paramount Global and Netflix. He was recognized by the South Carolina General Assembly in 2022 for his outstanding contributions to the industry and he has been recognized by Forbes magazine as an up and coming entrepreneur. He also supports the music ministry at two churches.

Important Dates

8 - Jesse Jackson was born, 1948
11 - Friendship Institute (later Friendship College) held first classes, 1891
21 - Dizzy Gillespie was born, 1917
25 - Rev. I. DeQuincey Newman elected to SC State Senate; first Black to serve since 1888, 1983


2024 BLACK HISTORY
MONTH HONOREE
Education
Georgette
COUNCIL

2025 November

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
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MORE ABOUT GEORGETTE COUNCIL

Mrs. Council is the Executive Assistant to the Superintendent of Richland School District Two, a position she has held for over 20 years in service to six Superintendents. She is a United States Army veteran with experience as a legal specialist and court reporter, office manager, editorial manager, data analyst, statistician and technical writer.

Her leadership and communication skills contribute to her being a sought after speaker and professional development presenter. She is a Certified Educational Office Employee (CEOE) and a member and past president of the local, state and national professional organization for office professionals.

Mrs. Council is a friend and mentor to many and a role model for all to emulate. She never hesitates to lend a helping hand, provide advice and to share resources. She is a cancer survivor who is currently publishing a book and journal to help others on their healing journey.

Important Dates

3 - South Carolina State College established, 1898

8 - Dr. Cleveland Sellers born, 1944

26 - SC General Assembly named four Black men to serve on the USC Board of Trustees, 1872


RICHLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT TWO CELEBRATES OUR
2024 Black History Month Honorees


INSPIRING THE FUTURE

2025 December

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
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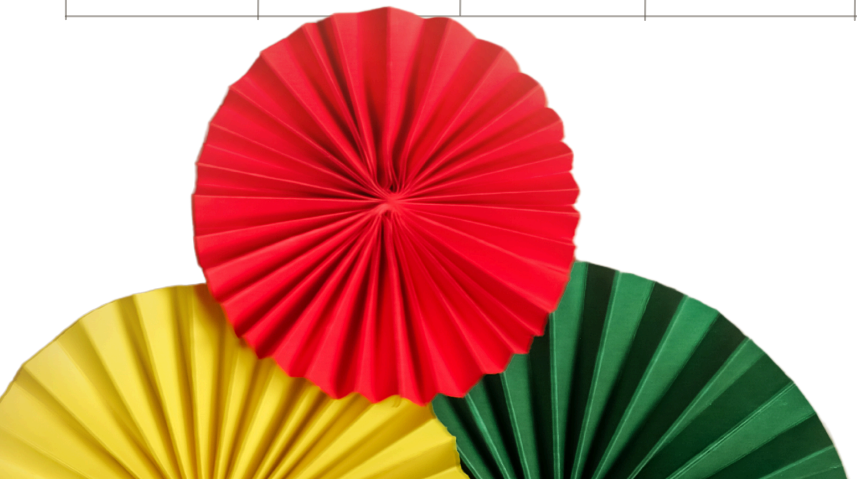


Important Dates

1 - Ernest A. Finney, Jr. sworn in as first Black Chief Justice of the SC Supreme Court, 1994

5 - Modjeska Monteith Simkins born, 1899

12 - Joseph Rainey born, 1870




What are your
concerns in
our education system?



2026 January

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
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11	12	13	14	15	16	17
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Important Dates

1 - New Year's Day
10 - George Washington Carver's Birthday
12 - Congressional Black Caucus organized, 1971
19 - **Martin Luther King, Jr. Day**
27 - Leontyne Price debuts at the Metropolitan Opera House, 1961