

9th Annual Teaching Black History Conference



Theme: Black Founding Mothers and Fathers

July 24 and 25, 2026

University at Buffalo - South Campus

Buffalo, NY 14214

2026 is a special year for Black history. 2026 is the 60th anniversary of the founding of the Black Panther Party for Self-Defense. 2026 also marks the *semi-quincentennial for the United States of America*. In other words, this is the 250th year since Declaration of Independence. Additionally, 2026 marks the 100th year founding of Negro History Week and the 50th anniversary of Black History Month. These anniversaries are the inspiration of the 2026 Teaching Black History Conference theme, Black Founding Mothers and Fathers.

We can imagine that the semi-quincentennial celebrations throughout the year will be filled with a lot of red, white, and blue. The narratives will laud the greatness and bravery of people considered founders. We predict that although it is common knowledge that racism and slavery coincided with the colonists' "freedom," very little will be told about Black people's experiences (as well as Native, women, and the poor) as the new country was founded. We understand that Black people were systemically left out of the Declaration of Independence and other official acts of "freedom" (save for the American Revolution). That does not, however, lessen their impact in the founding of the United States. While Black persons fought for independence along with Whites, they also were instrumental in building their own institutions that help create a country within a country. These people are known to be Black Founding Mothers and Fathers.

The theme Black Founding Mothers and Fathers does not sit solely within the Revolutionary period. The sub theme, creating a country within a country, is important here in our understanding of what constitutes as a founder. As Black history educators we understand that for the first 300 plus years on US soil, Black persons were second class humans with no or limited citizenship rights. Many Black persons suffered but were still able to develop communities, organizations, and businesses that thrived and was created uniquely for them. Therefore, the sub theme of creating a country within a country, tells us that being a founder is not just for the founding of the United States but a Black Founder is also someone who founded Black institutions (social, economic, political, etc) for Black people to live and be human within a system meant to destroy and discriminate against them.

Therefore, we are looking for proposals that will teach us about Black founders. Black men and women who understood created and sustained Black institutions in order to keep Black people safe from racist institutions, educate for society, social and joyous, and to keep us woke! **Of course, this is teaching Black history so any proposal that focus on any Black history is always encouraged!** Please [click here](https://forms.gle/uPf4ebNKtec2vZQF7) (https://forms.gle/uPf4ebNKtec2vZQF7) to submit a proposal or two and we will see you July 24 and 25th in Buffalo, New York in Foster Hall, our new building for the Graduate School of Education, and adjacent buildings on the University at Buffalo's South Campus.

LaGarrett J. King

Professor and Director