

Honoring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Black History Calendar Serves as Fundraising Vehicle for Historically Black Colleges and Universities

By *The Educational Network*

You'll never know where you're going, unless you first know where you've been. So, make 2017 your year of self-pride and timeless knowledge with The Educational Network's "Our History Today! An African-American Journey" Black history calendar and resource guide. In addition to featuring hundreds of key facts highlighting the contributions and accomplishments of notable history-makers, this collector's edition features full-page profiles of 13 prominent African-American trailblazers in politics, education, sports, business, media and film/television; as well as a farewell pictorial tribute to President Barack Obama.

The calendar serves as a national fundraising vehicle for Histori-

cally Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), showcases 12 such institutions, and lists nearly \$1 million in available scholarships. Since its inception in 2006, the calendar has raised more than \$400,000 for HBCUs.

"Across the nation, there's been a decline in high school graduation rates - especially, among African-American males - which may correlate to the lack of positive, accomplished role models and knowledge of black history," said Tracey Alston, founder of The Educational Network.

"Understanding that our youth will never know where they're going until they first know where they've been, our 2017 black history calendar celebrates the amazing contributions - past and present - that our people have made to numerous industries beyond sports and music, the nation and the

world."

In conjunction with the calendar, The Educational Network has also developed an online lesson plan system for teaching Black History and Multicultural Studies to students, grades K-12. The Common Core-aligned program is currently being used by teachers in several school districts across the nation.

The "Our History, Today! An African-American Journey" calendar is available for purchase at select Walgreens stores nationwide and www.BlackHistoryHBCU.com.

For more information, please contact The Educational Network at (312) 470-0270.



Curator and Researcher Mary Elliott Shares Insight into New Black History Museum



Mary Elliott, curator and museum specialist for the Smithsonian National Museum of African-American History and Culture, pauses next to a slave cabin exhibit during a recent media tour.

By *Stacy M. Brown*
(NNPA Newswire Contributor)

The new Smithsonian National Museum of African-American History and Culture contains an exhibit that features slave cabins, one that curator and museum specialist Mary Elliott called powerful.

Almost as powerful, however, is Elliott's recounting of the vital input and assistance by one local citizen who inspired many seniors and others to participate in the new museum.

"To get all the stories together about the slave cabins, we brought in the help of a genealogist and we used our local research here and reached out to the community," Elliott said. "And, when we were dismantling the cabin, the community came out and it

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