

[Subscribe](#)

[Past Issues](#)

[Translate ▼](#)

[View this email in your browser](#)

# WE DEFINE THE *Future*



[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate ▼](#)

### **Director's Note for March & April 2025**

Dear CSUSB Black Community & Allies,

This month has been very busy with several events for Black History Month!!! Thanks to the San Manual Student Union Cultural Centers, especially the Pan African Student Success Center, Black Faculty Staff & Student Association, Ethnic Studies Department, and many more others who have helped make BHM a success thus far!! In March, we were able supporting our local parents and K-12 students via the San Bernardino City Unified School District, for Natural Hair Day. CSUSB Alum Lawrence Hardy, who works for SBCUSD brought us together for a great event!

Our office also had the chance to collaborate with the Pan African Student Success Center for their leadership event in March.

For those high school and transfer students who have been admitted to CSUSB, we enjoyed a great connection with them and their families for Choose CSUSB day via our event covering resources for African American students as well as our the visits to the Pan African Student Success Center! That day and ongoing, we have been able to sign up four students for our OBSS version of the CSUSB University Studies course that I will be teaching.

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate ▼](#)

school graduation celebrations and our own CSUSB graduation celebration, especially thanks our partnership with the [National Black Grad](#) and to the [Black Faculty Staff and Student Association](#), respectively!

Moreover, thanks to our Provost, Dr. Rafik Mohamed, we have partnered with the [Black Excellence Project](#), a consulting group lead by Professor Steven Cleveland out of CSU East Bay. This effort has focused on empowering campuses in their work to promote Black Student Success!!! Professor Cleveland has been and will continue connect with people on campus who can talk about our successes!

There has been and will be so much more. I will share some events below to chronicle all the great things that have gone on this past month and announce more to come.

Please enjoy all the pictures and events to come at CSUSB as well as a recent news story from CSUSB, via Stories from the Pack, titled by clicking here to read about [“Empowering excellence: Office of Black Student Success breaks barriers and expands support at CSUSB.”](#)

The term, “pempasie” is represented below this not as an [Adinkra symbol](#) that means bringing all the pieces together. As we are nearing the end of this school year, the first for the OBSS, I am excited to see all the efforts to support Black students come together. Thanks to the American Association of Black in Higher Education Conference for reminding me of the power of West African Adinkra symbols to inspire our work.

Please remember to follow us on Instagram, Facebook, and our webpage.

Peace & Health

Brandon E. Gamble, Ed.D.

p.s. If you are interested in the Black History Month Committee for 2025-2026, we are already meeting and planning for 2026!

[Subscribe](#)

[Past Issues](#)

[Translate ▼](#)



**[Black History Month Photos](#)**

[Subscribe](#)

[Past Issues](#)

[Translate ▼](#)





[Subscribe](#)

[Past Issues](#)

[Translate ▼](#)



[Subscribe](#)

[Past Issues](#)

[Translate ▼](#)



[Subscribe](#)

[Past Issues](#)

[Translate ▼](#)





**Subscribe**

**Past Issues**

**Translate ▼**



[Subscribe](#)

[Past Issues](#)

[Translate ▼](#)







### **CSUSB BHM Photos**

On the February 5th, OBSS had an open house and connected with several students, staff, and faculty about our mentoring support services. Black history quotes, educational opportunities and insights were shared, especially by CSUSB's President, Dr. Tomas Morales!

Photos:

Top 1 - OBSS staff members posing with Yoties Up — L to R: Brandon Gamble, Ebenezer Ezenwa, and Terri McCoy

2nd — OBSS staff members posing with BHM shirts and point to their back which states, "Celebrating Black History Month Every Month Every Day — L to R: Brandon Gamble, Ebenezer Ezenwa, and Terri McCoy

3rd — Black Excellence Project Lead, Professor Steven Cleveland standing, Interviewing OBSS student assistants who are sitting. — L to R: Mr. Steven Cleveland, Ms. Rita Thurnton (Senior), MR. Tristian Gilliam (2nd Year), and Ms. Xandra Vaughn (Graduate Student)

4th — Rita Thurnton (Senior)

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate ▼](#)

Project)

6th Row first picture on Left - L to R: Dr. Lorena Marquez (Co-Chair of BHM), Dr. Brandon Gamble (Co-Chair of BHM), Dr. Aaron Brown (Ethnic Studies Faculty), Dr. Teresa Velaquez (Ethnic Studies Chair) after Dr. Brown's talk and film screening about the life of Audre Lorde

6th Row second picture on Right - L to R: Dr. Francisca Beer (Associate Dean), Mr. Alton Garrett (CSUSB Alum), Dr. Brandon E. Gamble (OBSS Director), and Dr. Tomás Gomez Arias (Dean).

The Jack Brown College of Business hosted an event titled, "The Voice" to learn more about the experiences of Black men who attend CSUSB. OBSS student assistants, alumni, and staff all attended this invited event.

7th Row first picture on Left — OBSS student assistant, Mr. Jalonis Taylor introducing awardees at the Pioneer Breakfast

7th Row second picture on Right — OBSS student assistant, Mr. Doni Baggett introducing awardees at the Pioneer Breakfast

8th — Student scholarship recipients from the BFSSA at the Pioneer Breakfast

9th — OBSS staff, post Pioneer Breakfast at the Student Affairs office — L to R: Ebenezer Ezenwa, Terri McCoy, & Brandon Gamble

## Natural Hair Day by SBCUSD

[Subscribe](#)
[Past Issues](#)
[Translate ▼](#)
[Media Inquiries ▼](#)

## CSUSB hosts SBCUSD's Natural Hair Day, celebrating African American culture and heritage

The San Bernardino City Unified School District's third annual Natural Hair Day, held at CSUSB's Santos Manuel Student Union North, celebrated the rich history and cultural significance of natural hairstyles worn by African American women.

Published March 18, 2025



Natural Hair Day brought together parents, students and community members for a day of festivities on March 8, which included music, dancing, poetry, artwork and a hair-fashion show, all designed to honor the beauty and history of natural hair.



### **Natural Hair Day at CSUSB, hosted by San Bernardino City Unified School District**

- Row 1 - Image of article about the event, with CSUSB staff giving the Yoties up hand signs. For more on the article from CSUSB News [click here](#).



[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate ▼](#)

- Row 3 on the Right — Mr. Lawrence Hardy, SBCUSD in the middle joined by members of the National Pan Hellenic Council who supported the event
- For an recap video of the event, [click here](#).

## CSUSB Black Experience Stories

[News](#) [For the Media](#) [INSIDE CSUSB](#) [CSUSB Magazine](#) [Alert](#)


[Media Inquiries ▼](#)

### Kathryn Ervin sets the stage for collaborative learning


Emeritus Professor of Theatre Arts Kathryn Ervin emphasizes that by sharing and listening to each other's lived experiences, students and faculty enrich their learning and better prepare for a diverse society.


Published February 26, 2025

[+](#) [f](#) [t](#)

 Making Connections - Coyote Faculty: Kathryn Ervin

From an accredited US healthcare provider

A video player showing Kathryn Ervin, an Emeritus Professor of Theatre Arts, speaking in a classroom. She is wearing a blue t-shirt and gesturing with her hands. The video player includes a red play button in the center and a CSUSB logo in the bottom right corner.

Watch on  YouTube

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate ▼](#)[News](#)[For the Media](#)[CSUSB](#)[CSUSB Magazine](#)[Alert](#)[Media Inquiries ▼](#)

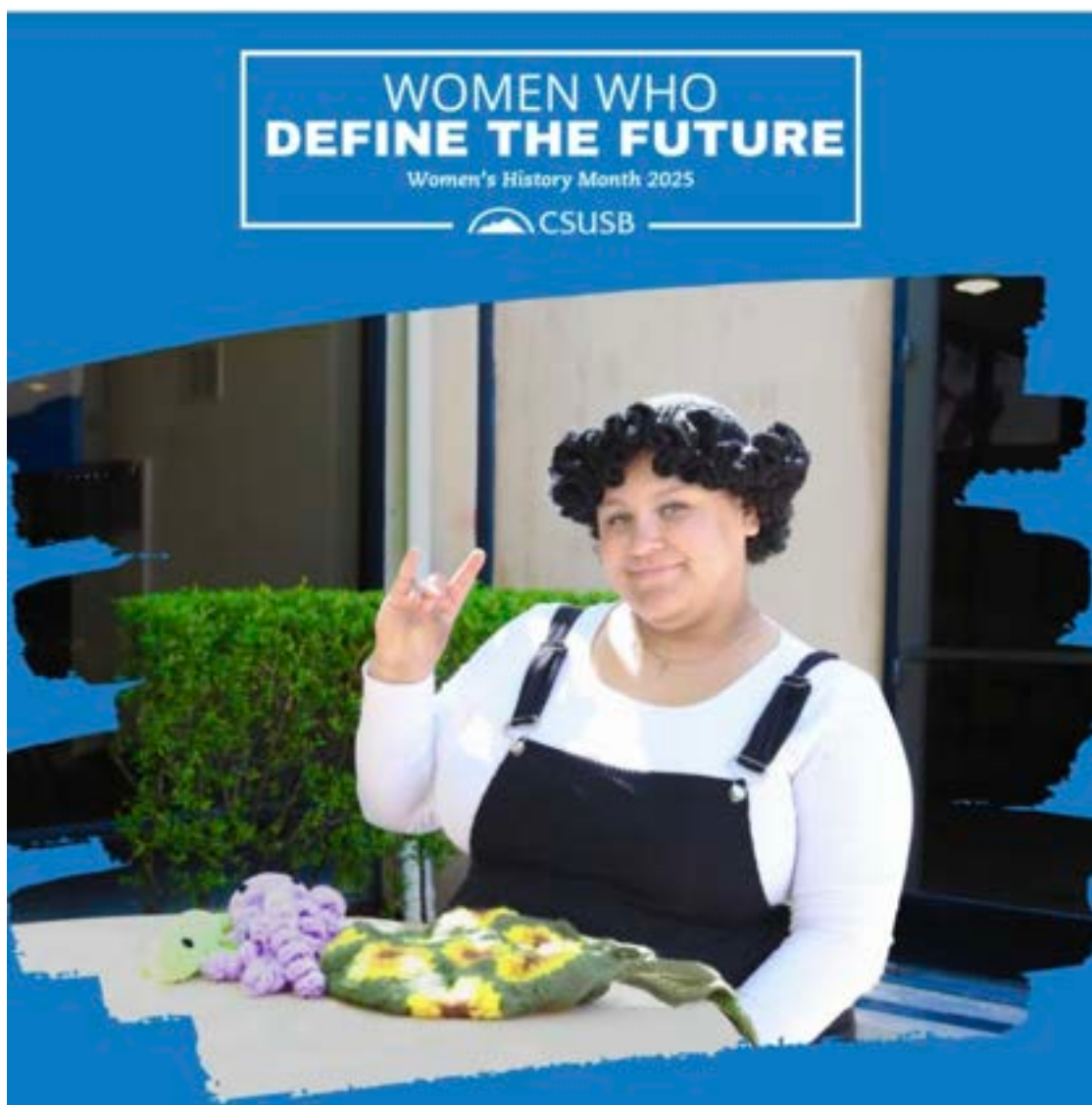
## CSUSB hosts 'Black Woman on Board,' a discussion on Claudia Hampton's trailblazing legacy

Cal State San Bernardino hosted a discussion highlighting the legacy of Claudia H. Hampton, the first Black woman trustee in the CSU system, featuring author Donna Nicol and a conversation on educational advocacy.

Published March 13, 2025



*Donna Nicol, associate dean for personnel and curriculum and professor of history at Cal State Long Beach, discusses her book, "Black Woman on Board: Claudia Hampton, the California State University, and the Fight to Save Affirmative Action."*

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate ▼](#)

**Women's History Month & Black Women at CSUSB!!!**

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate ▼](#)

This was a feature for BHM. For more full article [click here](#).

2nd — Dr. Donna J. Nichol has written a book about Dr. Claudia Hampton, the first Black woman to be a trustee in the CSU system. One of our own OBSS student assistants, Ms. Shantelle Brown, a graduate student in English Literature, introduced Dr. Nichol. For more about the event [click here](#).

3rd — Ms. Erinea House, is studying Cyber Security at CSUSB! She was featured for women's history month via this [article](#), [click here to read](#). Also in this short and meaningful [video](#), click here to watch.

4th — Olivia Fergusson is an OBSS student assistant, who is engaged with campus via ministries, her own connections, and overall leadership. She was featured via CSUSB on Linked in. To read more about Olivia, [click this link](#).

**April OBSS' Collaborative and Sponsored Events, Black Bizarre (BSU),  
Worship Experience (PASSC), & Black Mentors Matter Luncheon (OBSS)!**



[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate ▼](#)A poster for the 4th Annual Black Bazaar event. The background is a sunset over a desert landscape with palm trees. The text is in white and orange. At the top left, it says 'CSU SAN BERNARDINO AMPHITHEATER'. At the top center, it says 'BLACK STUDENT UNION PRESENTS'. At the top right, it says 'APRIL 17, 2025 3 PM TO 9 PM'. In the center, it says '4TH ANNUAL BLACK BAZAAR'. Below that, there are three sections: 'Food Trucks' with a list of vendors, 'Live Performances' with a list of groups, and 'Shopping' with a list of vendors. At the bottom, it says 'PARKING FEE REQUIRED', 'AND MUCH MORE', and 'OPEN TO THE PUBLIC'. There is a logo on the left side of the poster that says 'BSU AT CSUSB' around a map of Africa.

CSU SAN BERNARDINO  
AMPHITHEATER

BLACK STUDENT UNION PRESENTS

APRIL 17, 2025  
3 PM TO 9 PM

4TH ANNUAL  
**BLACK  
BAZAAR**

**Food Trucks**

RONI'S RIBS · DD'S CHICK AND CAT SHACK · THE FLAVOR OF CREOLE ·  
AND MORE!

**Live Performances**

ALPHA KAPPA ALPHA · KAPPA ALPHA PSI · OMEGA PSI PHI · DELTA SIGMA  
THETA · PHI BETA SIGMA · ZETA PHI BETA · SIGMA GAMMA RHO · IOTA PHI  
THETA · CAJON MAJORETTES · REAL J. BOOGS · AND MORE!

**Shopping**

THE COOKIE JAR · COVENANT DESIGNS · XALIA BOUTIQUE · HAIR  
CONCOCTION PLANT-BASED HAIR CARE · FAMOUS PUDN · KEITH'S KETTLE  
CORN · JUS ROLLS · ASANTI BY KOI · FULLY LOADED LOS ANGELES

**PARKING FEE  
REQUIRED**

**AND MUCH MORE**

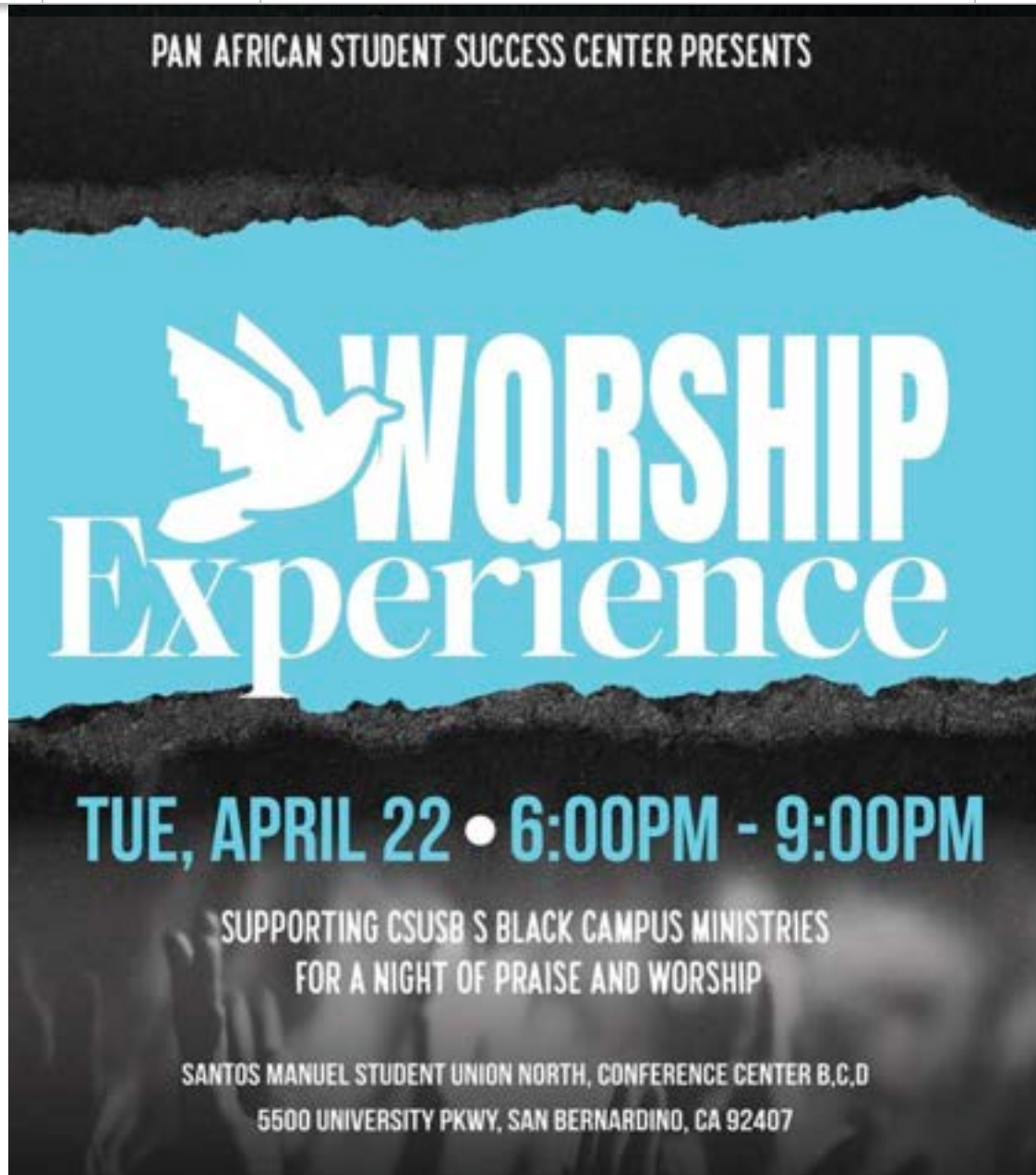
**OPEN TO  
THE PUBLIC**



[Subscribe](#)

[Past Issues](#)

[Translate ▼](#)




[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate ▼](#)

CSUSB Office Of Black Student Success Presents,

# BLACK MENTORS MATTER LUNCHEON

*Empowering Youth through Critical Mentoring*


 **APRIL 24, 2025**  
11:00 am – 12:30 pm

Founder and Executive Director of the Youth Mentoring Action Network (YMAN)

Author of Critical Mentoring: A Practical Guide

Location: PL-4005  
Faculty Center for Excellence

**KEYNOTE SPEAKER**  
**TORIE WEISTON-SERDAN**



CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY  
**SAN BERNARDINO**  
Office of Black Student Success

Contact [obss@csusb.edu](mailto:obss@csusb.edu)

**[RSVP for Black Mentors Matter Click Here](#)**

**For more about any of these events please contact us at [obss@csusb.edu](mailto:obss@csusb.edu)**

**Black Graduation Celebrations at CSUSB!**



[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate ▼](#)


The poster features a group of diverse African American high school graduates in the background. In the foreground, there is a circular logo for the National Black Grad (NBG) with the text "NATIONAL BLACK GRAD", "NBG", and "WE ARE THE VILLAGE!". The main title "I.E. BLACK GRAD GRADUATE RECOGNITION Ceremony" is prominently displayed. Below the title, a yellow box contains the text: "Please Join Us In Honoring African American High School Graduates in the Counties of Riverside and San Bernardino". The event details are listed: "SUNDAY, MAY 4TH 2025 @ 3PM" at "CSU SAN BERNARDINO COUSSOULIS ARENA, Coyote Dr. San Bernardino, Ca 92407". A QR code is provided for registration. For more information, the website "www.nationalblackgrad.org" and email "nationalblackgrad@gmail.com" are listed. A "Scan me" prompt is next to the QR code. The registration link is "https://bit.ly/2025IEBLACKGRAD". The bottom section, titled "PARTNERS", lists several organizations: Inland Valley News, Umoja-Tumaini, CSUSB, YAP, C.O.P.E., CLAY, CEEM, BLU, and YMAN.

### National Black Grad

This effort is hosted at the CSUSB campus and brings high school students who are graduating all over the Inland Empire. Scholarships, resource fair and the graduation ceremony. Order tickets for family early.

For more on about this event, please [click here](#).

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate ▼](#)

### **32nd Annual Black Grad Recognition Ceremony 2025**

Date: Saturday, May 10, 2025

Time: 2PM – 4PM

Location: SMSU North Conference Center, California State University, San Bernardino

Ceremony Co-Chairs: Cherica Bell and BFSSA Executive Board

Registration Deadline: Sunday, May 3, 2025

Contact: [blackgrad@csusb.edu](mailto:blackgrad@csusb.edu) for more information

Details: Join us for the 32nd Annual CSUSB Black Graduation Recognition Ceremony with cultural entertainment, a procession, a symbolic ceremony, and cultural sashing. This is a pre-commencement celebration presented by the Black Faculty, Staff & Student Association (BFSSA) to honor our Black graduates who have successfully completed an undergraduate or graduate degree. It is an opportunity for you to be recognized for your accomplishments.

If you plan to participate in the ceremony, please click the registration link below and follow the next steps. The Black Graduation Recognition Ceremony does not replace the University Commencement Ceremony. Graduates are encouraged to attend both.

[Click here to register to participate](#)

[Click here to learn more about the vent and BFSSA](#)

To further support our Black Students, please consider making a contribution on our "Office of Black Student Success" website under the green Donation tab. You can

[Subscribe](#)

[Past Issues](#)

[Translate ▼](#)

our students.

[Donate](#)

**WE DEFINE THE *Future***

*Copyright (C) CSUSB Office of Black Student Success All rights reserved.*

Our mailing address is:

CSUSB Office of Black Student Success

5500 University Parkway San Bernardino, CA 92407

Want to change how you receive these emails?

You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe](#)