

BLUE IS FAMILY

Sycamore Family Newsletter

- February 2020 -



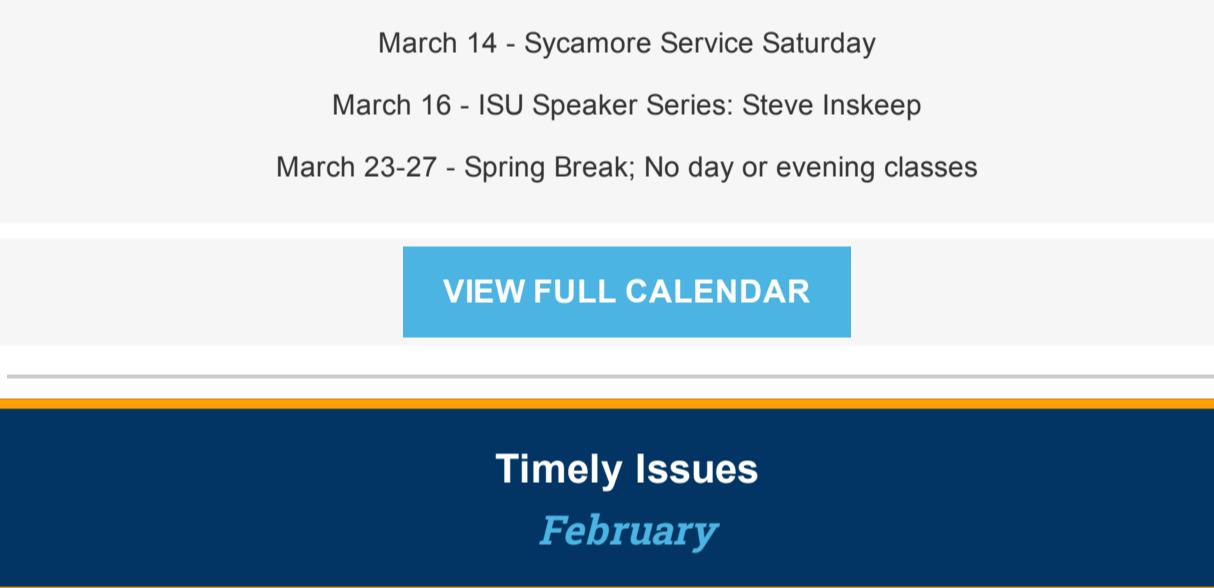
ISU Celebrates Black History Month

Charles E. Brown African American Cultural Center

The [Charles E. Brown African American Cultural Center](#) (AACC) provides programming which advocates and celebrates academic achievement, social involvement, cultural contributions and community engagement. AACC staple programs allow students an opportunity to be creative and celebrated. Students have numerous opportunities to learn, engage and celebrate cultural contributions.

This year the Black History Month (BHM) committee, which the AACC chairs, wanted to celebrate 150 years of African American Achievement at Indiana State University. According to the research of BHM committee member, Dr. Crystal Reynolds, Indiana State University is the only institution in the state of Indiana who admitted an African American as early as 1870. The goal of the BHM committee is to provide the ISU and Terre Haute communities a place to acknowledge, recognize, and celebrate African American achievement and their contributions beyond slavery. The AACC hopes to achieve that goal this year through providing programs which recognize the intellectual, social and artistic contributions of people of African descent. Additionally, the committee has collaborated with community partners to provide opportunities for professional networking, entrepreneurship, community involvement, and panelist discussion on the significance of the two enduring institutions of African American culture; church and family. BHM was kicked off this year with ISU alumna, Carolyn E. Mosby-Williams. Carolyn E. Mosby is a successful entrepreneur who spoke on the importance of opportunity, legacy and passion. All students are invited to take advantage of the varied opportunities to broaden their knowledge, value differences and appreciate Indiana State University's historical legacy to diversity and inclusion.

A compete listing of Black History Month events can be found [here](#).



AACC Programs

Family Reunion/Street Fair

Gathering of black student organizations, local churches, and businesses at Wolf Field.

Black Congratulatory Ceremony

Recognition and awards ceremony for graduates of African descent.

Academic Achievement Awards

This annual Family Weekend program recognizes students of color who achieved a GPA of 3.3 or higher in the fall or spring semester.

Kwanzaa Celebration

An African American and Pan-African holiday which celebrates family, community and culture. Celebrated each year in December, its origins are in the first harvest celebrations of Africa from which it takes its name. The name Kwanzaa is derived from the phrase "matundaya kwanza" which means "first fruits" in Swahili, a Pan-African language which is the most widely spoken African language.

Black Women/Men Summit

In collaboration with Union Board, this allows students the opportunity to engage with alumni on diverse topics.

Ebony Majestic Choir

A gospel choir that performs at cultural and community events. Open to all students who are interested. Meets on Monday at 7pm for rehearsal.

ISUcceed

Transition program to assist incoming first-year students in navigating their ISU experience.

MAPS - Mentor Assistance for Productive Scholars

Mentorship program for sophomore, juniors and seniors.

BOSS - Brotherhood of Successful Scholars

Black male retention program.



Dates to Know

FEBRUARY

February 19 - Spring Career Fair, HMSU

February 20-25 - Interim Grading

February 22 - Polar Plunge

February 22 - Sycamore Service Saturday

February 24 - ISU Speaker Series: Rocky Bleier

MARCH

March 11 - Give to Blue Day

March 14 - Sycamore Service Saturday

March 16 - ISU Speaker Series: Steve Inskeep

March 23-27 - Spring Break; No day or evening classes

[VIEW FULL CALENDAR](#)

Timely Issues

February

It's February! This means Black History Month, Valentine's Day, Fat Tuesday, and Interim Grades all crammed into 29 days (yes it's a Leap Year!). It's also coming up on one month back from break and in the winter months, often that can seem much longer because the skies are grey and the weather is dreary. Below are a few tips to help your student navigate the winter blues:

Encourage them to get out of their "rut" or combat cabin fever by attending any one of the hundreds of campus events going on around campus this month. They can find out what's going on by visiting the [Campus Events](#) calendar or the Treehouse in their portal.

Now is also a great time to start planning for summer. Have they considered looking for Internships for this summer? Encourage them to visit the [Career Center](#) to see what is available for either an Internship or even some job shadowing opportunities to get a feel for their future career.

Has your student completed their FAFSA for next fall? If not please encourage them to do so as soon as possible. The Indiana deadline for state financial aid is April 15th, which means it must be received by then, not mailed on that date. There are financial aid and [FAFSA workshops](#) happening all over campus in the next two months if your student needs help completing their FAFSA.

February also means Valentine's Day. This is often a time for angst for many students. Those in relationships often begin having issues around this time and those not in relationships often feel down and lonely. Encourage your student to visit the [Student Counseling Center](#) or the [Dean of Students Office](#) if they are experiencing these issues.

Interim Grades come out at the end of February so students are starting to have exams and may, for the first time, realize they are struggling in their classes. Encourage yours student to talk with you about their interim grades and where they might be struggling – sometimes it's a hard class, sometimes it's attendance issues, and sometimes it's missing assignments.

February can be a rough month and students sometimes do struggle. If you notice your student is struggling and are not sure how to help them encourage them to visit their Academic Advisor. Their advisor can sit down with them and connect them with the necessary resources to help.

Student Leadership Opportunity

The Transition Mentor position is an outstanding opportunity to meet and mentor a diverse, dynamic group of individuals in order to prepare them for their experience at State. Transition Mentors are essential in helping to facilitate the adjustment of new students to the ISU community.

Mentors play a key role in the transition of new students through summer communication, State Orientation, and State Welcome.

Your student can find more information about this position on the [New Student Transition Programs](#) website.

[VIEW FULL CALENDAR](#)

Noteworthy at ISU

[Indiana State University Speaker Series: Rocky Bleier](#)

[ISU geology student will present her research on Capitol Hill](#)

[Give to Blue Day a nod to ISU history](#)

[Couple gives back to help North Putnam students attend ISU](#)

Monthly Facebook Poll

February Results

Does your student have a job?

- Yes, on campus 30.8%
- No, but they are looking 20.5%
- No, my student does not work during the school year 23.1%
- Yes, off campus 15.4%
- Yes, both on and off campus 10.3%

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