



ODEI BHM NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2024

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

FROSTBURG
STATE
NEWSLETTER

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THE ODEI BHM NEWSLETTER

A campus newsletter is a great way to address the campus community with engagement, communication, and collaboration. This newsletter sheds light on the history of the campus and upcoming events. Furthermore, the newsletter will highlight a student, alumni, staff, faculty, and administrator.

THE OFFICE OF DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION MESSAGE

Greetings from the Office of Diversity, Equity,
and Inclusion!

Welcome to the spring semester of 2024 at FSU. I hope you had a wonderful break and are ready to settle down to do some serious work. This office invites you to get serious with us by taking advantage of some of the opportunities we will provide for increased learning and growth around diversity and inclusion. What does this mean? There will be opportunities to learn more about yourself and how your awareness, understanding, and life experiences help shape how you show up in the world and impact others. There will be opportunities to learn more about others and how we can all learn to make room for each other. I encourage you to take advantage of these opportunities. Our goal is that you, as a student y, will be confident that you belong here, you are welcome, you matter, and we are invested in your success. That requires some effort on your part as well. Do not shelter in your silos. Join us as we embrace life together.

We kicked off the semester with the Celebration of Black History Month. We will continue through the semester, acknowledging the February - May diversity theme months, including religious and other holidays, with options to engage through cultural conversations, lectures, fun activities, and road trips. Read our emails before deleting them... you never know what you may find of interest. We will send a newsletter like this each month containing interesting facts, upcoming activities, and highlights on current students, alums, faculty, staff, and administrators. Meeting folks you may not have encountered yet or learning more about those you already know is fun. As always, our doors are open to you. We do not have all the answers and are not the perfect fit for everyone, but we promise to stick with you until you find the answers and support you need.



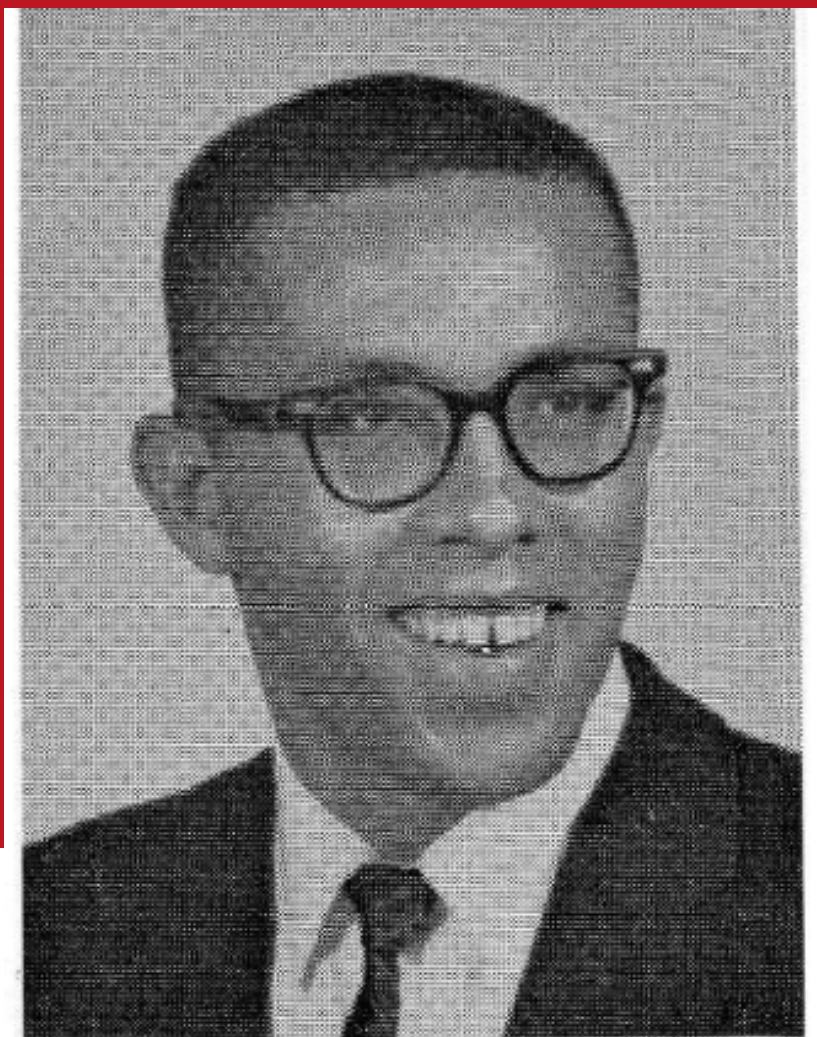
AVP ROBIN WYNDER

DID YOU KNOW ?

The building that you may know as "the old police station" or "new multicultural center" was the site of the Lincoln School. The Lincoln School was located in Brownsville, an African American community started by Tamer Brown, a formerly enslaved woman, in 1866. The Lincoln School was a schoolhouse built to educate Brownsville residents who could not attend the other community schools because of segregation. Today, the building is known as Adams/ Wyche Multicultural Center at the Lincoln School; its mission is to become a safe and welcoming place for all students, regardless of race or cultural differences.



DID YOU KNOW ?



Leon Brumback

The first African American Graduate from Frostburg State University was Leon Brumback from Hancock, MD. He continued and earned his Master of Education in 1967, becoming a double alumni. Mr. Brumback became an educator and youth advocate in Washington County. He was recognized by FSU in 1994 with the FSU's Distinguished Alumni Achievement Award and was named Washington County's Teacher of the Year that same year. Brumback retired from Washington County Public Schools in 1998.



Organization Chartering Timeline:



- **1969:** BLACK STUDENT ALLIANCE (FOUNDED AS THE AFRO-AMERICAN SOCIETY)
- **FEBRUARY 16, 1974:** KAPPA PSI CHAPTER OF DELTA SIGMA THETA SORORITY INC.
- **AUGUST 27, 1976:** BETA KAPPA CHAPTER OF OMEGA PSI PHI FRATERNITY INC.
- **DECEMBER 18, 1976:** LAMBDA EPSILON CHAPTER OF ALPHA KAPPA ALPHA SORORITY INC.
- **APRIL 6, 1977:** MU UPSILON CHAPTER OF ALPHA PHI ALPHA FRATERNITY INC.
- **NOVEMBER 9, 1978:** KAPPA BETA CHAPTER OF PHI BETA SIGMA FRATERNITY INC.
- **MAY 11, 1979:** LAMBDA IOTA CHAPTER OF ZETA PHI BETA SORORITY INC.
- **FEBRUARY 12, 1983:** LAMBDA MU CHAPTER OF KAPPA ALPHA PSI FRATERNITY INC.
- **1987:** NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE CAMPUS CHAPTER
- **1996:** LATIN AMERICAN STUDENT ORGANIZATION
- **OCTOBER 19, 2002:** EPSILON ZETA CHAPTER OF IOTA PHI THETA FRATERNITY INC.
- **MAY 1, 2004:** AFRICAN STUDENT ASSOCIATION
- **MAY 5, 2005:** PI PSI CHAPTER OF SIGMA GAMMA RHO SORORITY INC.
- **SEPTEMBER 2009:** SPECTRUM
- **SEPTEMBER 23, 2012:** NATIONAL COUNCIL OF NEGRO WOMEN
- **2012:** NATIONAL SOCIETY OF BLACK ENGINEERS
- **MAY 3, 2014:** ALPHA OMICRON CHAPTER OF PI LAMDA PHI
- **JANUARY 21, 2015:** CARIBBEAN STUDENT ASSOCIATION
- **JANUARY 2018:** SOCIAL JUSTICE FOR ALL
- **AUGUST 2, 2022:** W.O.M.E.N



**For more information on organizations
contact Student Engagement:**

**Jamie Winters - 301-687-7398
or
Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion**

I am a junior, and my major is social work. After college, I plan to get a good-paying job in my field. I was inspired to do this, so I plan to work as a social worker in a school. My mom is a social worker and works at a school. I love the school she works at, and the help she provides for her students inspired me to do something similar.

I am involved on campus. I am the president of the Black Student Alliance. I am also a member of the Bobcat and Food Advisory committees. I was also a student success mentor last fall. A student success mentor is placed into an ORIE class to help incoming first-year students. My favorite thing to do is find new work spots. I like to explore when I have the time to explore.

A primary group I belong to is the black community. Many in my community have helped guide me to where I need to be. They have provided tips/ advice to help me better as a leader. A strength I bring to my leadership as a/an black individual is being open-minded. That is one of my most significant assets. Hearing and trying to put myself in others' shoes gives me the power to be heard more. People typically are not heard because they are so negative/opinionated. It is okay to be opinionated, but there should be some balance.

A challenge I bring to my leadership as a black individual is my ability to say no. I struggle with being able to say no. I do not like disappointing people, especially those who look up to me. I look up to many people, not just one. I will not say names, but every person amongst me helps and provides good qualities that molded me into who I am today.



Tyreik Charles



I graduated in spring 2021. My major was computer information systems, with a minor in business administration. As an undergrad, I was a track and field team member and actively involved in student support services at Iota Phi Theta Fraternity, Inc. Additionally, I served as a Resident Assistant.

Following graduation, I worked in the ID Office at Frostburg State University and later transitioned to the IT department. Simultaneously, I pursued further education and will graduate this spring with a master's degree in applied computer science. I currently work as an IT Telecom Associate at Frostburg State University. My primary responsibilities include ensuring the proper functioning of cash registers, handling their backend operations, and providing support for AV (Audio and Video) issues to students, staff, and professors. Additionally, I engage in various other IT-related tasks across the campus. A primary group to which I belong that has shaped my identity as a leader is the Iota Phi Theta Fraternity, Inc.

A strength I bring to my leadership as a fraternity member is fostering a sense of brotherhood and unity within a group. I have developed strong interpersonal and teamwork skills through my involvement in the fraternity, which contributes to effective leadership. A challenge I bring to my leadership as a fraternity member is the need to balance group cohesion with individuality. While emphasizing unity, it is essential to recognize and respect each member's diverse strengths and perspectives. My track and field coach is someone I look up to as a role model. Their dedication, motivational skills, and commitment to excellence have greatly influenced my approach to leadership. I admire their ability to bring out the best in individuals while fostering a collaborative team environment.

**Robert Cooper**

I am the Assistant Vice President of Student Engagement and involve working in the areas of fraternity and sorority life, student organizations, leadership, service, national service, civic engagement, and activities. We want to ensure students have something to do when they are not in class and something that complements the academic curriculum. I hope to help enhance the student engagement experience at Frostburg so we can provide students with great opportunities to remember their experiences here in college. So, whatever I can do to ensure students have an engaged experience is something I will try to do.

I think it is everyone's job to maintain an inclusive environment. I think we all have to make sure that all are welcome to the table and that all program events it is welcome; everyone can learn something from any program, even if it is learning just to relax, be calm, and chill, but every event is meant to guarantee people something and learn something from it. It should be for everyone regardless of who they are. I am currently advising two groups: the Student Government Association and then the other one is Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc.

A primary group to which I belong that has shaped my identity as a leader is African American males. That shapes who I am and how I lead from the learnings of other African American men to like Dr. Travis or mentors throughout my college career and higher education experience. I think they have helped shape me into who I am, you know, the leadership skills, the openness, and willingness to learn to get better, the ability to open doors for other people that may not have or may need or desire support, and so I think that has helped shape who I am.

A strength I bring to my leadership as an African American male is that if I had to pick one, I would say I can relate to others. I have a knack for listening and communicating with people, which helps me relate to people. Part of my leadership is developing relationships with people. It is easy to lead people when you have a good relationship. So, just for me, it is all about relating to people and helping them see what I am trying to get out of them or show them and then moving in direction.

A challenge that my identity group brings to my leadership as an African American Male is in higher education. I think sometimes people do not respect or care to understand or believe that we have gotten to where we are because of our hard work and our learning from books and education, and so sometimes the lack of respect we get from other people, I think, could be a challenge. I do not see it as one; I do not make it a challenge; I do me. People need to like me for who I am. I know that I am knowledgeable, a leader, will say what I need to say, and will look out for other people.

There are many people I see as role models. If I had to pick one, this African American male who was at UNC Pembroke when I was there as an Associate Director of Student Activities. He was the director of student activities, and his name was Abdul Ghaffar. He has since retired but made it to Assistant Dean of Students. He taught me a lot about family, putting family first, discussing balance, and being a leader; he taught me a lot about programming in general.

Furthermore, Abdul always reminded me that programming is not about me when we are doing it; it is about others and making sure we think about the students as we plan the program. Thus, he is someone I would see as a role model. He is an inspirational spiritual family man and is respected by many people. He was among the most popular people when I was on campus at UNC Pembroke. He was just someone I strived to be like because he just was that dude and just made things happen, and so I have always tried to pride myself on trying to do some more things just because I want to make sure people have those experiences and enjoy their college career.

1. What is your position on campus? What does that involve?

I'm an adjunct professor within the Education Department in the Masters of Education Program School Counseling. I've taught various courses within the School Counseling Program for approximately 13 years. I love teaching future school counselors and see my charge as preparing and mentoring students for the workforce. Teaching basic counseling skills, confidentiality, ethics, and diversity/inclusivity training are all important aspects of getting students ready to educate others and pay it forward. It is so satisfying to see students' growth from start to finish as well as build relationships with folks from all backgrounds and experiences. Maintaining these relationships with the former students is incredible and an added bonus of my position!

2. What goals do you wish to accomplish while in your position?

The primary goal is to ensure student success with a secondary goal to grow the School Counseling Program. We should all be lifelong learners, and as the world is changing, it's important to continue to improve our skills to help students become successful and see the program meet the needs of incoming students. It's a blessing for me to be a part of the growth and success of these students.

3. How do you see maintaining an inclusive environment pertaining to your position?

Maintaining and celebrating inclusive classroom environments is imperative as it gives students the opportunity to succeed and achieve their goals as well as educating students to provide inclusive spaces for their future students. Everyone has specific needs and ways of learning that should not be segregated or ostracized; everyone in my class and in the School Counseling Program are part of the same community of learners. Inclusivity in the classroom should address negative cultural attitudes and misconceptions. Not only are these expectations placed on the students as they learn the tenets of the profession and how they see themselves navigating their own lives, but I expect the students to hold me accountable to these expectations as well. I want my classes and conversations to be a safe space.

4. A primary group to which I belong that has shaped my identity as a leader is

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As an alumni of FSU, I was involved in Black Student Alliance activities, as well as NAACP activities. Being involved in leadership teams and activities helped me to have the ability to be a mentor, guide students as they learn decision-making skills, and enjoy meeting folks from various backgrounds. Also, I played softball and intramural sports. All of my experiences have shaped me into the person I am today. It's hard to narrow down to one activity or group that has helped me with my leadership skills.

Currently, in addition to being an adjunct professor for FSU, I've served as a full-time school counselor in the Allegany County School System for approximately 18 years. I'm a part of various leadership groups for the school system such as school improvement teams, positive behavior teams, National and State school counseling associations, and Diverse Student Voices - this group is especially helpful and enjoyable as we help ensure students have a range of voices that would reflect the wider scope of the school community.

Last year, I was nominated by former middle school students and received the award for the NAACP Freedom Writers for Education. As a school counselor and educator, it can be difficult to see if what you are doing is making an impact. Rewards can present themselves in little and big ways to help let you know you are indeed making a difference.

5. A strength I bring to my leadership as a/an _____ (primary group) is

_____.

I think the strength I bring to my leadership roles are my various experiences. Like I stated earlier, I cannot pinpoint one specific event or strength. One aspect of my background experiences has taught me to have resiliency, empathy, and be a listener. Listening sounds like an easy skill to master, but if done with fidelity, it can be quite a difficult yet powerful tool. It's a skill I'm still working on daily to improve. When I think back to my mentors, I would say the power of listening was the one thing they did to help me grow as a person. Listening helps build empathy, and we all could use more empathy to work collaboratively. The other skill I would like to mention would be perseverance to never quit. Being a member of black and the lgbtqia+ communities has influenced my personal growth and allowed me to rise to the occasion to be a leader to my students and others that identify within those communities.

6. A challenge I bring to my leadership as a/an _____ (primary group) is

I think the challenge that I bring is the same as my strength; the process of learning to listen. We discuss this skill in every single class in the school counseling program. It's the very essence of what it means to be a counselor and a leader. Listening is the foundation of counseling and it is vital in my everyday life, both professionally and personally. Discovering different strategies to become a more productive listener, especially when disagreement is a factor, is a challenge that I am happy to embrace as it supports the collaborative nature of life and is the foundation to any type of problem solving and growth as a community.

7. Is there someone you look up to as a role model or hero, and why?

Again, I've had multiple mentors and role models to this very day that have shaped me as a leader. I'm a descendant of Brownsville, so I would be remiss if I didn't mention my family. Of course, my grandparents and aunts and uncles have taught me many things, especially the character trait of integrity and tenacity. The experience of the social impacts of navigating a forgotten community as very few Black families resided in Frostburg, and the struggles to live in the various neighborhoods had many trials and tribulations. My family persevered. Being raised by my father's brother and his wife, I am incredibly lucky to have that grit instilled in me. Learning that resilience builds empathy. I had many coaches and teachers that were my mentors along the way. I firmly believe that a higher power puts folks in your life at the right time when you need it. At one time, I didn't think I was going to make it to college. Again, my family and my mentors pushed me to full potential. With uncertainty still clouding my mind, I met a trailblazer in the FSU community, Mr. Bernard Wynder who helped with my admission process and confidence. Mr. Wynder, Dr. Robert Moore, Coach Keller, Coach Roque, Aunt Bonnie and Uncle Arnett, Mr. Lemmert, Dr. Lisa Simpson, Dr. Karla Diehl, Dr. Jesse Ketterman, Dr. Jenna Epstein, my administration team, my supervisors, my family, my friends, and my wife are just a few of the folks that have shaped my path to success.





Dr. Artie Travis

I serve as Vice President of Student Affairs. As the senior student affairs officer, my role is less about doing individual tasks and more about providing leadership for the team while providing student services. During my professional career in higher education, I have served in the Residence Life Office, the Student Activities Office, and as the Director of Cultural Affairs. As VP of Student Affairs, I cannot be an expert in all the areas of the division and must trust in the expertise of the staff members. We are always concerned about when the next crisis will be. If possible, we try to anticipate potential concerns/issues. If a crisis arises that we did not/could not anticipate, we must decide how best to respond. My goal is to make students understand that we care about their experiences on campus and strive to provide an environment where they can succeed. I also strive to be a positive role model to those seeking me out.

Once college campuses became diverse, they realized they needed to create a campus where everyone felt included. We must ensure that if we accept a student, we have an environment that invites and welcomes them well above tolerance. When asked if he was an advisor, he responded that it is challenging to do that in his role as it is his job to stay neutral and support all students. You have identified being an African American male as a primary social identity group to which you belong that has shaped your identity as a leader. What is a strength/challenge that you bring to your leadership as an African American male? Perseverance has been both a strength and a challenge. Change does not come without struggle, which has taught me to persevere. However, trying to achieve needed changes is a difficult road, and though you persevere, you get tired sometimes.

There have been many, but my mother is my number one. She was a single mom; she attended community college but did not graduate. During the great migration, she moved us around a lot (Danville, IL – Chicago, IL- Los Angeles, CA- Georgia), pursuing a way in life and a path for her children to be successful.

February 2024

- **1st - Opening Ceremony for Black History Month:
A Celebration of Black History Presentation**

5:30PM

ARMAH

- **8th - Wall of Quotes Tabling**

11am-1pm

Lane Center

- **13th - Meaning of Black History Month Tabling**

11am-1pm

Lane Center

- **15th - Black History Jeopardy**

3pm-4pm

AWMCC

- **20th - Showing of Hidden Colors 1**

1pm-3pm

AWMCC

- **24th - Holocaust Museum**

8:00am- 8:00pm

- **27th - Showing of Hidden Colors 2**

1pm-3pm

AWMCC

- **28th - "Being Racialized in America"**

6pm -7:30pm

AWMCC

