

February 3, 2019

PHOTO CALL: Black History Month Kick-off

MacEwan University will embark on its second-annual university-wide Black History Month, which aims to celebrate the contributions made by Black Canadians to our country's culture, legacy and future.

The opening ceremony will showcase the Royal Alberta Museum's exhibition "I Am From Here," which shares the stories of Alberta's early Black pioneers. The exhibit will be on display at MacEwan until 3 p.m. where it then return to the RAM until September 27, 2020.

At noon, the Sangea West African Drumming Academy will kick off a joint student and community march.

"Marching and demonstrations are an integral part of activism, especially relating to issues rooted in racial injustice," says Yonae Rolle, lead organizer for MacEwan's Black History Month events. "Historically, the visibility of people of colour in large groups has been stigmatized as threatening and dangerous. Now more than ever, we must showcase the importance of representation and taking up space that we all contribute to in meaningful ways."

Opening Ceremony and March
February 3, 11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
MacEwan City Centre Campus, Building 6

Interviews with lead organizer Yonae Rolle and student participants available on site.

Black History Month Keynote
February 5, 5:30 p.m. - 7p.m.
Room 9-102
Robbins Health Learning Centre

Keynote speaker Dr. Wanda Costen will explore Black women's participation in the Canadian labour force, barriers that prevent true representation and tangible ways to improve diversity in the workplace.

"We must keep talking about the issue of diversity because it won't just happen," says Costen. "Workplaces benefit from the participation of a whole person, their whole identity."

Dr. Costen has partnered with businesses and public organizations to help them develop diversity initiatives and training programs. She is the first Black Dean of the School of Business at MacEwan University. Her research focuses on managing diversity, racial and gender inequality in organizations and strategic human resources.

For more information, please contact:

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