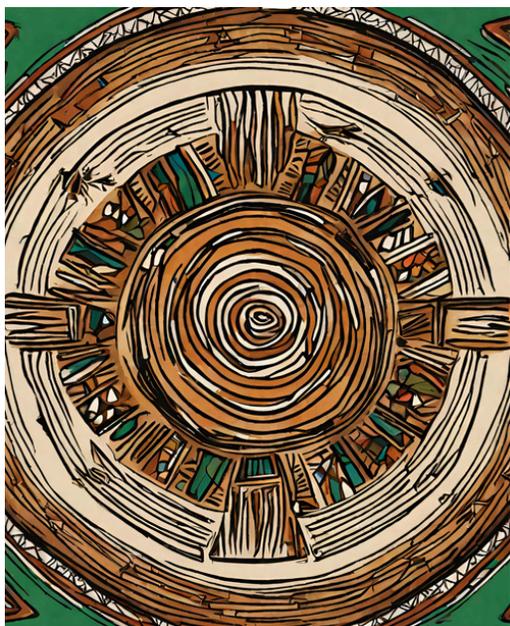




Newsletter



A Note From The President

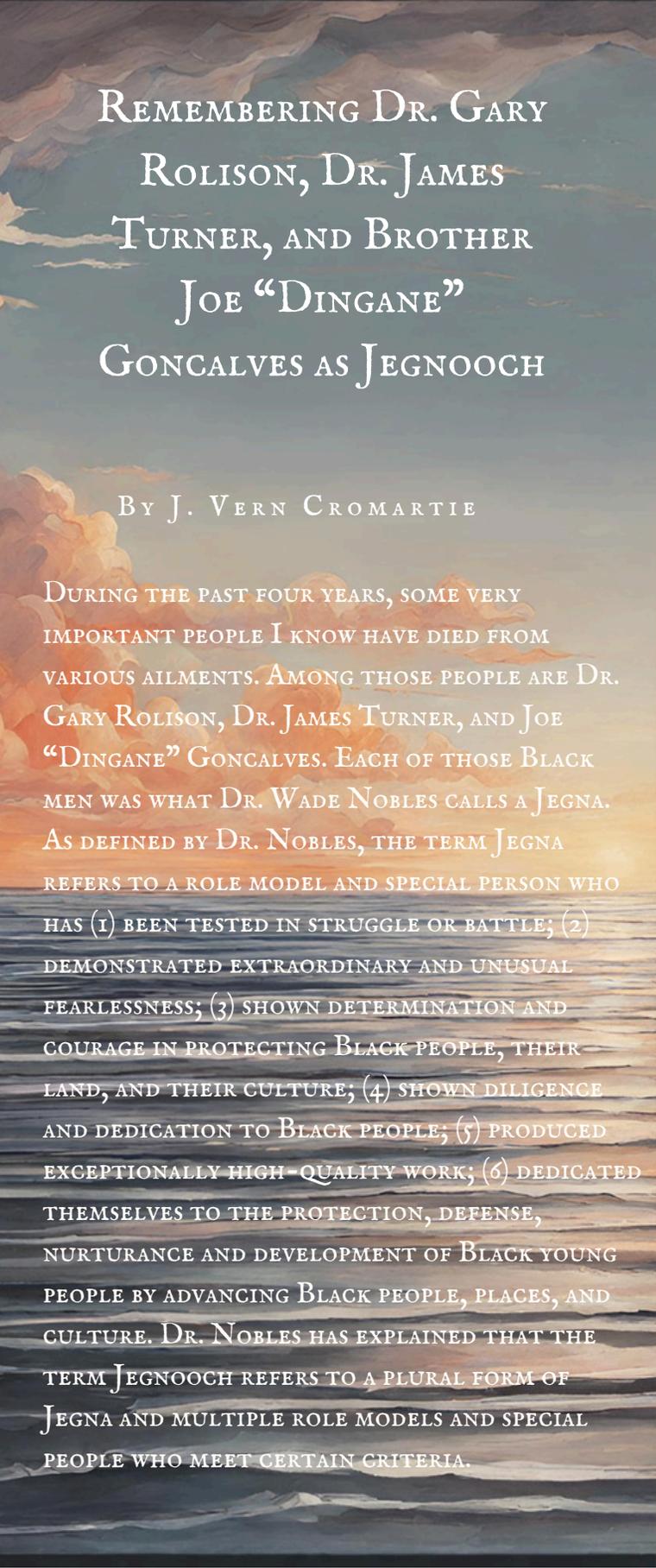
BY DARLITA J. MOYÉ

CARRYING FORTH THE TORCH OF THE AFRICAN HERITAGE STUDIES ASSOCIATION (AHSA) ENTAILS EMBRACING ITS FOUNDATIONAL VALUES AND VISION WITH STEADFAST RESOLVE. AHSA WAS FORGED IN THE CRUCIBLE OF RESISTANCE, A TESTAMENT TO THE UNWAVERING COMMITMENT TO CHALLENGE ENTRENCHED SYSTEMS OF OPPRESSION AND UPLIFT THE VOICES OF AFRICAN DESCENDANT SCHOLARS. AT ITS CORE, AHSA STOOD AS A BEACON OF INTELLECTUAL FREEDOM, BOLDLY CONFRONTING EUROCENTRIC BIASES AND ADVOCATING FOR A MORE INCLUSIVE APPROACH TO AFRICAN STUDIES. ITS VISION WAS ONE OF EQUITY AND JUSTICE, WHERE THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF AFRICAN DESCENDANT SCHOLARS WERE RECOGNIZED AND CELEBRATED ON A GLOBAL STAGE. TO HONOR AHSA'S LEGACY IS TO CONTINUE THE STRUGGLE FOR LIBERATION, TO DISMANTLE STRUCTURES OF INEQUALITY, AND TO AMPLIFY THE NARRATIVES AND EXPERIENCES OF MARGINALIZED COMMUNITIES. IT IS TO UPHOLD THE BELIEF THAT KNOWLEDGE IS POWER AND THAT EDUCATION IS A TOOL FOR EMPOWERMENT AND EMANCIPATION. IN CARRYING ON THE VALUES AND VISION OF AHSA, WE PLEDGE TO BE AGENTS OF CHANGE, TO CHALLENGE THE STATUS QUO, AND TO CULTIVATE SPACES WHERE DIVERSITY THRIVES AND EVERY VOICE IS HEARD. IT IS THROUGH OUR COLLECTIVE EFFORTS THAT WE HONOR THE LEGACY OF AHSA AND ADVANCE THE CAUSE OF JUSTICE FOR ALL.

Inside:

- Remembering Global Icons
- Slave Revolts Interactive Map
- Opinion: The Decimation of Affirmative Action
- Florida's DEI Problem Is Spreading
- What's Next On The Horizon
- Get Involved!
- Contact Us

Join us today in living the AHSA vision!



REMEMBERING DR. GARY ROLISON, DR. JAMES TURNER, AND BROTHER JOE “DINGANE” GONCALVES AS JEGNOOCH

BY J. VERN CROMARTIE

DURING THE PAST FOUR YEARS, SOME VERY IMPORTANT PEOPLE I KNOW HAVE DIED FROM VARIOUS AILMENTS. AMONG THOSE PEOPLE ARE DR. GARY ROLISON, DR. JAMES TURNER, AND JOE “DINGANE” GONCALVES. EACH OF THOSE BLACK MEN WAS WHAT DR. WADE NOBLES CALLS A JEGNA. AS DEFINED BY DR. NOBLES, THE TERM JEGNA REFERS TO A ROLE MODEL AND SPECIAL PERSON WHO HAS (1) BEEN TESTED IN STRUGGLE OR BATTLE; (2) DEMONSTRATED EXTRAORDINARY AND UNUSUAL FEARLESSNESS; (3) SHOWN DETERMINATION AND COURAGE IN PROTECTING BLACK PEOPLE, THEIR LAND, AND THEIR CULTURE; (4) SHOWN DILIGENCE AND DEDICATION TO BLACK PEOPLE; (5) PRODUCED EXCEPTIONALLY HIGH-QUALITY WORK; (6) DEDICATED THEMSELVES TO THE PROTECTION, DEFENSE, NURTURANCE AND DEVELOPMENT OF BLACK YOUNG PEOPLE BY ADVANCING BLACK PEOPLE, PLACES, AND CULTURE. DR. NOBLES HAS EXPLAINED THAT THE TERM JEGNOOCH REFERS TO A PLURAL FORM OF JEGNA AND MULTIPLE ROLE MODELS AND SPECIAL PEOPLE WHO MEET CERTAIN CRITERIA.

DR. GARY ROLISON DIED IN 2021 AND WAS A PROFESSOR EMERITUS OF SOCIOLOGY AT CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, SAN MARCOS. WE BECAME CLOSE FRIENDS DURING OUR GRADUATE SCHOOL DAYS. DR. ROLISON WAS A DEEP THINKER AND WILLINGLY SHARED HIS SOCIOLOGICAL INSIGHTS ABOUT SOCIAL CONDITIONS FACING BLACK PEOPLE. HE WAS ALSO A VERY PRINCIPLED PERSON. DR. ROLISON ALWAYS TOOK THE POSITION AGAINST THE DEATH PENALTY. AFTER HIS DAUGHTER KIMYA BODI ROLISON WAS MURDERED BY A SERIAL KILLER IN OHIO, DR. ROLISON ASKED THE COURT NOT TO INCLUDE THE DEATH PENALTY IN THE PUNISHMENT FOR THE HORRIBLE CRIME. THAT ACTION SHOWED THAT DR. ROLISON WAS VERY CONSISTENT IN HIS PRINCIPLES.

AS A SOCIOLOGIST, DR. ROLISON MADE MANY VALUABLE CONTRIBUTIONS THROUGH HIS TEACHING AND RESEARCH. HIS RESEARCH INTERESTS INCLUDED RACE AND ETHNICITY, SOCIAL CONTROL, AND THE SOCIOLOGY OF BLACK AMERICANS. IN THOSE AREAS, DR. ROLISON PUBLISHED SEVERAL ARTICLES. DR. ROLISON EARNED HIS PH.D. IN SOCIOLOGY AND COMPLETED HIS DISSERTATION AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SANTA CRUZ IN 1986. THE TITLE OF HIS DISSERTATION IS THE POLITICAL ECONOMY OF THE URBAN UNDERCLASS: BLACK SUBEMPLOYMENT IN POST-INDUSTRIAL CAPITALISM.

DR. JAMES TURNER DIED IN 2022 AND WAS A PROFESSOR EMERITUS OF AFRICAN AND AFRICAN AMERICAN POLITICS AND SOCIAL POLICY AT CORNELL UNIVERSITY. I FIRST MET HIM AT A CONFERENCE OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF BLACK STUDIES. HE IMMEDIATELY IMPRESSED ME WITH HIS “SUPER COOL DEMEANOR” AND STYLE. ALTHOUGH WE NEVER BECAME CLOSE FRIENDS, I ADMIRE HIS INTELLECT AND DEEP THINKING. I ALSO FOLLOWED HIS CAREER FROM A DISTANCE. DR. TURNER HAS RECEIVED DUE CREDIT FOR BUILDING AN AFRICANA STUDIES RESEARCH CENTER AT CORNELL UNIVERSITY. HE WAS THE EPITOME OF THE SCHOLAR-ACTIVIST AND LEFT HIS MARK ON MANY GRADUATE AND UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS, INCLUDING DR. SCOTT BROWN OF UCLA. TO PAY HOMAGE TO DR. TURNER, A GROUP OF HIS FORMER STUDENTS LED BY DR. SCOTT BROWN UNITED TO PUBLISH A BOOK REGARDING THE LEGACY OF DR. TURNER. THE BOOK IS ENTITLED DISCOURSE ON AFRICANA STUDIES: JAMES TURNER AND PARADIGMS OF KNOWLEDGE. I AM SO GLAD THAT THE BOOK WAS PUBLISHED WHEN DR. TURNER WAS STILL ALIVE.

REMEMBERING DR. GARY ROLISON, DR. JAMES TURNER, AND BROTHER JOE “DINGANE” GONCALVES AS JEGNOOCH (CONT.)

THE BOOK ON DR. TURNER, EDITED BY DR. BROWN, PROVIDES US WITH IMPORTANT DETAILS ABOUT HIS LIFE AND TIMES. ALTHOUGH HE ALWAYS TAUGHT AT A PREDOMINATELY WHITE INSTITUTION, DR. TURNER CONSIDERED HIMSELF A COMMITTED BLACK NATIONALIST AND PAN-AFRICANIST AS WELL AS A SCHOLAR. WHILE SERVING AS A PROFESSOR AT CORNELL UNIVERSITY, DR. TURNER EARNED HIS PH.D. IN AFRICAN AMERICAN STUDIES AND COMPLETED HIS DISSERTATION AT THE UNION GRADUATE SCHOOL IN 1975.

THE TITLE OF HIS DISSERTATION IS THE POLITICAL SOCIOLOGY OF RACISM AND SYSTEMIC OPPRESSION: INTERNAL COLONIALISM AS A PARADIGM FOR SOCIOECONOMIC ANALYSIS, AND, THEORETICAL NEXUS IN AFRO-AMERICAN POLITICAL THOUGHT. NATIONALIST RESPONSES TO RACIST OPPRESSION: FROM EMIGRATION TO PAN-AFRICANISM. IN 1978, DR. TURNER PUBLISHED AN IMPORTANT ARTICLE TITLED “THE POLITICAL SOCIOLOGY OF RACISM AND SYSTEMIC OPPRESSION: INTERNAL COLONIALISM AS A PARADIGM FOR SOCIOECONOMIC ANALYSIS.” IT WAS BASED ON HIS DISSERTATION AND PUBLISHED IN THE FALL 1979 ISSUE OF STUDIA AFRICANA: AN INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF AFRICANA STUDIES. THUS, DR. TURNER WAS A SOCIOLOGIST AND WHAT THE LATE DR. ITABARI ZULU TERMED AN AFRICOLOGIST.

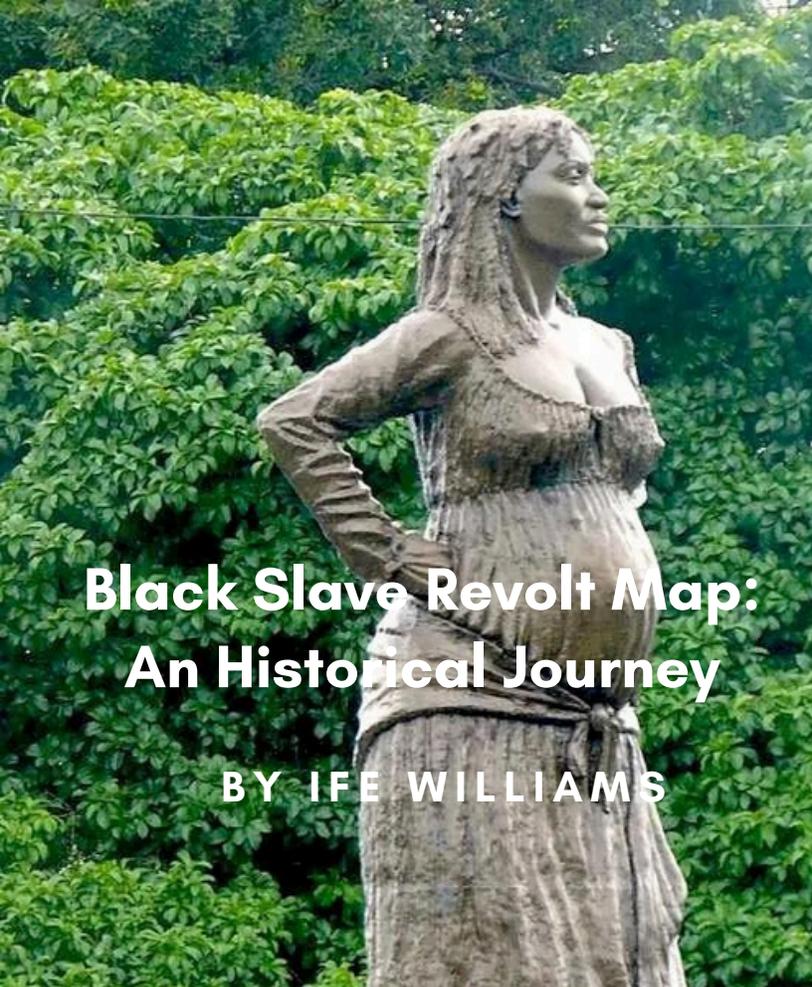
JOE “DINGANE” GONCALVES, ALSO KNOWN AS BROTHER DINGANE, DIED IN 2022 AND WAS A BLACK MAN OF CAPE VERDEAN DESCENT. HE WAS A PHENOMENAL LEADER IN THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT, BLACK POWER MOVEMENT, AND THE BLACK ARTS MOVEMENTS. BROTHER DINGANE FIRST EMERGED AS A LEADER WITH CORE, A MAJOR ORGANIZATION IN THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT. BROTHER DINGANE HELPED THE SAN FRANCISCO BRANCH OF CORE TO FIGHT MAJOR BATTLES FOR JOBS, CONTRACTS, AND EDUCATIONAL SLOTS FOR BLACK PEOPLE IN SAN FRANCISCO.

AS A MEMBER OF CORE, HE ALSO PUT HIS LIFE ON THE LINE AND WENT TO MISSISSIPPI TO HELP REGISTER PEOPLE TO VOTE. WHEN THE BLACK ARTS MOVEMENT BEGAN TO EMERGE IN 1964, BROTHER DINGANE WAS AT THE FOREFRONT AS THE POETRY EDITOR OF SOULBOOK, AN OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE REVOLUTIONARY ACTION MOVEMENT (RAM). ANOTHER MEMBER OF THE STAFF WAS BOBBY SEALE. THAT ORGANIZATION PLAYED A CRUCIAL ROLE IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE BLACK ARTS MOVEMENT AND THE BLACK POWER MOVEMENT.

DURING 1966, BROTHER DINGANE CREATED HIS OWN LITERARY MAGAZINE AND NAMED IT THE JOURNAL OF BLACK POETRY. BROTHER DINGANE EDITED AND PUBLISHED THE JOURNAL OF BLACK POETRY ON A QUARTERLY BASIS FROM 1966 TO 1975. DURING THAT PERIOD, BROTHER DINGANE PUBLISHED MANY WELL-KNOWN AS WELL AS UNKNOWN BLACK POETS. IN ADDITION TO POETRY, HIS JOURNAL FEATURED ESSAYS, BOOK REVIEWS, MUSIC REVIEWS, AND NEWS ITEMS ABOUT CURRENT EVENTS. IN 1976, I MET BROTHER DINGANE IN HIS NEW DAY BOOKSTORE IN SAN FRANCISCO.

I BOUGHT MANY BOOKS FROM HIS STORE AND GOT TO KNOW HIM VERY WELL. WHEN I GOT READY TO PUBLISH MY FIRST BOOK OF POETRY TITLED RED SUN SONGS DURING 1981, BROTHER DINGANE TOLD ME HOW TO FORM MY OWN PUBLISHING COMPANY AND REFERRED ME TO A LOCAL BLACK PRINTER. BROTHER DINGANE WAS A JEGNA WHO ALWAYS ENCOURAGED YOUNGER BLACK PEOPLE TO READ AND ENGAGE IN THE ARTS. DURING HIS MEMORIAL SERVICE, I READ MY POEM TITLED CAPE VERDE IS AFRICA. I WROTE THAT POEM TO REFLECT THE IMPACT BROTHER DINGANE HE HAD ON ME. IT FIRST APPEARED IN BLACK BIRD PRESS NEWS & REVIEW (AUGUST 2022).

A version of this article first appeared in the Fall 2022 issue of the California Sociological Bulletin.



Black Slave Revolt Map: An Historical Journey

BY IFE WILLIAMS

In 1802, a visibly pregnant 30-year-old African woman named Solitude led Guadeloupean forces against French troops. After 18 days of rebellion, the revolutionaries set off gunpowder, resulting in the deaths of more than 400 rebels and soldiers. Solitude was captured and sentenced to be executed after the birth of her unborn baby because the child was the property of her owner. She was executed the day after the birth of her child. The Guadeloupean revolt's guiding principle was that they would "live free or die." The spirit of this belief permeated the more than 300 documented revolts initiated by enslaved Africans and their descendants from the onset of slavery into the twentieth century.

This multimodal interactive map cites the chronology, frequency of revolts, and locations, illustrating that armed resistance occurred from the onset of the European encounter, including numerous attempts to halt the trade of African people. The map markers incorporate descriptions, including persons involved and results, as displayed through video, audio, images, and text to contribute to the scholarship on resistance to enslavement

The digital revolt map offers a holistic approach to slavery themes: conditions; laws, particularly those on punishments, including "thinking about revolting;" relationships within the enslaved community, and the role of international events that influenced the mobilization of African people.

The map that appeared on the AHSA website in March 2019 and received over 236,000 views, has migrated to its new home <https://blackslaverevolts.org>, where it has been enhanced with selected, original animations from five graphic artists, re-edited for more precise descriptions, documentation, and locations.

The purpose of this map is to eradicate some of the misinformation about slavery and the status of Africans and African descendants. One can attest to our Ancestors' genius, courage, and fortitude by examining the number, location, and types of revolts. Seeing the lengths they went through to survive and thrive so we could be here today is humbling. Significant here are the uprisings in Africa, especially around the coastal area, because we have been misinformed about African complicity. Additionally, the number of revolts that were masterminded and led by women are highlighted. Frantz Fanon referred to the cathartic effect of fighting for freedom in *The Wretched Of The Earth*. Power expects the oppressed to cower down and stay subjugated; they don't understand resistance, and it incenses them even more.

Taking the risk to revolt is making a conscious decision to hold on to the property of yourself because enslavement is about inhumanness; one becomes liberated from a social death. The inner strength of our ancestors is evident in those who stood up for themselves; their intellectual independence demonstrated internal freedom and an ability to transcend physical conditions. We all should know about this history and embrace it as it informs our present! Our revolutionary spirit is still alive, passed down through generations. Incredibly, all that Africans and African descendants have encountered, and we're still alive, not just surviving but thriving!

Please visit <https://blackslaverevolts.org/> and share this resource with others.



(IMAGE CREDIT: CHRISTOPHER WEYANT / COPYRIGHT 2023 CAGLE CARTOONS, INC.)

The Decimation of Affirmative Action

BY AHSA STAFF

AS WITH MILLIONS, THE GUTTING OF AFFIRMATIVE ACTION POLICIES IN JUNE 2023 STRIKES A DISSONANT CHORD WITHIN ME. AFFIRMATIVE ACTION, BORN OUT OF THE RECOGNITION OF HISTORICAL INJUSTICES AND SYSTEMIC DISCRIMINATION, HAS LONG SERVED AS A BEACON OF HOPE FOR MARGINALIZED COMMUNITIES STRIVING FOR EQUITABLE OPPORTUNITIES IN EDUCATION.

HOWEVER, THE ASSAULT ON AFFIRMATIVE ACTION BEGAN IN EARNEST WITH THE BAKKE CASE IN 1978, AND RECENT LEGAL AND POLITICAL MANEUVERS HAVE ALL BUT EXTINGUISHED THIS MUCH NEEDED (AS MUCH TODAY AS 60 YEARS AGO) POLICY THREATENING TO UNDO THE SOMETIMES-TENUOUS PROGRESS MADE SINCE THE 1960S.

One cannot overstate the transformative power affirmative action has had on Black student admissions. For decades, it has been a crucial tool in dismantling barriers that obstructed our path to educational attainment. It helped level the playing field, allowing merit and potential to shine through the shadow of societal biases and prejudices. As a result, Black students gained access to institutions of higher learning that were once inaccessible, paving the way for generations to come. Yet, in recent years, affirmative action has faced relentless attacks, characterized as reverse discrimination or an unfair advantage. The recent gutting of these policies, under the guise of fairness and meritocracy and colorblindness, only serves to exacerbate existing disparities. What many fail to grasp is that affirmative action does not hand out unearned privileges; rather, it seeks to rectify the systemic inequalities entrenched in our society.

The repercussions of dismantling affirmative action reverberate far beyond the hallowed halls of academia. It sends a chilling message to Black students everywhere – that their worth is diminished, their aspirations discounted, and their struggles dismissed. It reinforces the notion that despite their academic prowess and resilience, they will always be second-class citizens in a society that refuses to confront its own biases. wealth gap.

Moreover, the gutting of affirmative action perpetuates a cycle of disadvantage that reverberates across generations. Without equitable access to higher education, Black communities remain trapped in a cycle of poverty and underachievement. The promise of upward mobility, once within reach, now drifts further away, leaving behind shattered dreams and unrealized potential.



Affirmative Action (cont.)

We cannot afford to be complacent in the face of this assault on progress. We must stand in solidarity and vehemently oppose any efforts to roll back affirmative action. Our collective voice must resound with conviction, demanding justice and equity for all. For when we deny Black students access to higher education, we not only betray their aspirations but also undermine the very fabric of our society.

The gutting of affirmative action policies represents a grave injustice, particularly from the perspective of Black individuals striving for educational attainment. It is a stark reminder of the enduring legacy of racism and inequality that continues to permeate our institutions.

As we confront this challenge, let us reaffirm our commitment to justice, equality, and the fundamental belief that every individual, regardless of race or background, deserves a fair chance to succeed.

FLORIDA'S DEI PROBLEM

By ANGELA D. WIMES

IN MAY 2023, FLORIDA'S GOVERNOR, RON DeSANTIS, signed a bill banning the state's colleges and universities from funding diversity, equity and inclusion initiatives and program. In March 2024, the University of Florida (UF) drew significant attention for its decision to eliminate diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) positions, appointments, and spending at its institution. This move, occurring against the backdrop of Florida's increasingly anti-DEI policies, has sparked concerns about the erosion of efforts to foster inclusivity within the university and across the state.

For years, UF has been at the forefront of DEI initiatives, striving to create an environment where all individuals feel valued, respected, and supported. These efforts have included the establishment of DEI positions, the implementation of programs aimed at promoting equity and understanding, and the allocation of resources to support underrepresented communities on campus.

However, UF's recent decision to slash DEI positions and spending has sent shockwaves through the university community. Critics argue that this move not only undermines the progress made towards fostering inclusivity but also sends a troubling message about the university's commitment to diversity and social justice.



Florida's DEI Problem (continued)

COMPOUNDING THE SITUATION IS THE BROADER POLITICAL CONTEXT IN FLORIDA, WHERE ANTI-DEI SENTIMENTS HAVE GAINED MOMENTUM IN RECENT YEARS. STATE-LEVEL POLICIES AND LEGISLATION HAVE TARGETED DEI EFFORTS IN EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS, SEEKING TO LIMIT DISCUSSIONS AROUND SYSTEMIC RACISM, CENSOR CURRICULUM MATERIALS, AND DISCOURAGE EFFORTS TO PROMOTE DIVERSITY AND INCLUSIVITY.

IN THIS CHALLENGING ENVIRONMENT, UF'S DECISION TO CUT BACK ON DEI POSITIONS AND SPENDING ALIGNS WITH THE BROADER ANTI-DEI SENTIMENT PREVALENT IN THE STATE. HOWEVER, IT ALSO UNDERSCORES THE UNIVERSITY'S COMPLICITY IN PERPETUATING A CLIMATE THAT IS HOSTILE TO EFFORTS AIMED AT ADDRESSING SYSTEMIC INEQUALITIES AND PROMOTING SOCIAL JUSTICE. THE BACKLASH TO UF'S DECISION HAS BEEN SWIFT AND WIDESPREAD, WITH STUDENTS, FACULTY, STAFF, ALUMNI, AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS EXPRESSING THEIR DISAPPOINTMENT AND FRUSTRATION. MANY HAVE VOICED CONCERNS ABOUT THE IMPACT OF THE CUTBACKS ON THE UNIVERSITY'S ABILITY TO CREATE AN INCLUSIVE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT AND SUPPORT THE NEEDS OF UNDERREPRESENTED STUDENTS AND COMMUNITIES.

IN RESPONSE TO THE CRITICISM, UF HAS CITED BUDGETARY CONSTRAINTS AND THE NEED TO REALLOCATE RESOURCES TO OTHER PRIORITIES AS REASONS FOR THE CUTBACKS. HOWEVER, CRITICS ARGUE THAT INVESTING IN DEI IS NOT ONLY A MORAL IMPERATIVE BUT ALSO ESSENTIAL FOR THE LONG-TERM SUCCESS AND SUSTAINABILITY OF THE UNIVERSITY.

AS UF GRAPPLES WITH THE FALLOUT FROM ITS DECISION, IT FACES A CRITICAL JUNCTURE IN ITS COMMITMENT TO DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION. BY SEEMING TO ALIGN ITSELF WITH FLORIDA'S ANTI-DEI POLICIES, THE UNIVERSITY RISKS ALIENATING MARGINALIZED COMMUNITIES, COMPROMISING ITS REPUTATION AS A LEADER IN DEI INITIATIVES, AND FAILING TO FULFILL ITS MISSION OF PROVIDING AN INCLUSIVE AND EQUITABLE EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCE FOR ALL STUDENTS.

MOVING FORWARD, IT IS IMPERATIVE FOR UF TO RECONSIDER ITS DECISION AND REAFFIRM ITS COMMITMENT TO DEI PRINCIPLES. IN DOING SO, THE UNIVERSITY CAN DEMONSTRATE ITS DEDICATION TO FOSTERING AN ENVIRONMENT WHERE DEI IS UPHELD AS A FUNDAMENTAL VALUE.



*What's
on the
horizon!*

Save the Date

**AHSA 55TH ANNUAL
CONFERENCE**

OCTOBER 24, 2024

ATLANTA, GEORGIA

**THEME: RECLAIMING OUR
NARRATIVE, ILLUMINATING OUR
LEGACY, AND SHAPING OUR
DESTINY**

**CALL FOR
PAPERS**

DEADLINE

TO RECEIVE ABSTRACTS:
500 words or fewer
August 15, 2024

Submission portal: 2024 AHSA SUBMISSION
PORTAL

**NOTIFICATION OF
ACCEPTANCE**

AUGUST 30, 2024

Get Involved & Stay Connected

It is time for membership dues.
Please visit
<https://ahsa50.org/membership>
to pay your dues today.

Get involved with an AHSA
committee. Please review the
description of each committee
and sign-up for the one you
would like serve on.

For more information and to
get involved contact us at
ahsainfo@ahsa50.org

