The African American and African Studies Community Extension Center (AAASCEC) provides outreach and engagement on behalf of the Department of African American and African studies. Located on the near east side of Columbus, in a community whose residents are predominantly of African ancestry, the center is uniquely positioned to fulfill the legal and moral obligations to educate and enhance the quality of life for Ohioans and to address the most pressing issues confronting the citizens of Ohio.

**AT A GLANCE**
The goal of the African American and African Studies Community Extension Center is to enhance the educational opportunities of students and to improve the quality of life for people who live and work in Columbus' urban communities.

**ABOUT THE CENTER**
Committed to service to the African American and African community in Ohio and beyond since 1972, the center, now more than ever, is called to demonstrate leadership in the best of the African tradition of wisdom and deep thought.

AAASCEC seeks to bring wisdom and values driven decision making to all of its endeavors.

Wisdom, defined as the capacity to realize what is of value in life for oneself and others including knowledge, know-how and understanding, and giving intellectual priority to discovering possible solutions to the problems of living, is much needed from all cultural perspectives.

**OUR MISSION**
To serve as a beacon of light in the long arc toward a just, sacred, sustainable world by enlivening our communities in the state of Ohio, the heart of America, with the best knowledge, wisdom and understandings available in order to advance the well-being of the people of Ohio, the nation and the global community.

Through extensive collaborations and the creation of platforms for analysis and strategic planning around the policies and practices that have fostered the conditions currently experienced by Black people, our aim is to help facilitate healing and help rectify some of their devastating multi-generational consequences.

Emphasis the cultural strengths accounting for Black resilience and capacity to thrive in the midst of social conditions in which Black youth are forced to decree “Black Life Matters.”

**COURSES**
Several courses for Ohio State students and the community, for credit or non-credit, include African American Voices in US Literature and Black Political Movements and Organizations.
NEW INITIATIVES

- Cultural Enrichment and Enhancement of Individual and Collective Health and Sustainable Well Being
- Educational Forum and Lecture Series
- Documentary/Film Discussion Series
- Dance/Zumba/ All That Jazz Series

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

CLOSING THE DIGITAL DIVIDE
Access point for telehealth activities, introductory computer courses, code training, and other opportunities for developing computer and social media skills.

OSU MATH AND SCIENCE PROGRAM
Partnering with the OSU Medical Center, AAASCEC provides students in grades 4-12 with opportunities to explore math and science.

SUMMER ENRICHMENT PROGRAM
For high school freshmen and sophomores interested in African American cultural and historical study.

SUMMER RESIDENTIAL PROGRAM
Opportunity to experience life on a college campus, and explore African American culture, as well as learn computer and technological skills.

AFTER SCHOOL SCIENCE AND MATH PROGRAM
With Ohio State Medical Center (East), a program for students in grades 4-12.

SUMMER ENRICHMENT PROGRAM
Designed to provide rising high school freshman and sophomore students an appreciation for African American cultural and historical study, as well as computer instruction.

ONGOING EVENTS

- African Affairs Symposium
- Black Veterans Day Salute
- History of Black Columbus Conference
- Ray Miller Institute for Change and Leadership
- Near Eastside Roundtable
- Ubuntu Brain Trust
- Lived Tradition Liberation Workgroup

UN DECADE OF PEOPLE OF AFRICAN ANCESTRY

AAASCEC is well positioned to facilitate and promote three of the primary goals of the UN Declaration of the Decade of People of African Ancestry:

1) Promoting respect, protection, and fulfillment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms for people of African Ancestry, as recognized in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

2) Promote greater knowledge of and respect for the diverse heritage, culture, and contributions of people of African ancestry to the development of societies.

3) Implement concrete and practical steps to combat racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance faced by people of African descent in the following areas: Recognition, Justice, Development and Multiple or Aggravated Discrimination.

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In over 40 years of operation, the Center has maintained its commitment to serve Columbus’s inner city residents. As we march on, we look forward to partnering with organizations and individuals who are interested in creating programs that cultivate and educated, productive and socially responsible citizenry.

Chair: Linda James Myers