



Our Mission and Values

The Northwestern University Black Professionals Network strives to build community through our shared experiences to foster open dialogue, leadership, and mentorship that will improve the NU Black professional experience.

Message from the BPN Chairs

Greetings Village,

Welcome to 2023!!! I am delighted to continue to serve as your BPN co-chair. I hope you had a chance to rest and recharge over the winter recess. We are excited to share our year in review with you. As you can see, we have had a very busy and productive 2022. Your BPN steering committee continues its commitment to advancing our mission and making sure we work to create a strong, supportive, and safe community for Black staff.

As we embark on this new year, we hope you continue to engage and support our upcoming programs and activities. We are looking forward to a spectacular 2023 and want you to be a part of it. See you soon!!!

Tracey A. Gibson-Jackson

Welcome to the NU BPN Newsletter. So much has changed, and yet some things remain the same. Let this moment bring you time to take care of yourself. Self-care is so important today. It can be a tool of resistance and preservation for Black people, given our frequent exposure to systemic oppression and discrimination.

Take time to reflect, restore and repair when you feel stressed, angry, and overwhelmed. Call a friend, take a walk, or just be.

Give yourself grace to forgive your mistakes, lapses in judgment, and hurtful behavior, because no one is perfect. Be compassionate. Practice self-compassion—*aka* having understanding, acceptance, and forgiveness of yourself. When that has been done, move on and continue to love YOU most of all. It is okay today.

This month, BPN has a series of dialogue sessions. Step into the Zoom room, sit back, participate, and leave with inspired action and a plan.

Until we see you again, be blessed!

Toni M. Montgomery

2022 Year In Review



Juneteenth at the Black House

Northwestern will recognize Juneteenth as an official University holiday beginning this year. [Read more.](#)

[Flyer](#)

BPN At the Block Museum

How has art been used to protest, process, mourn, and memorialize anti-Black violence within the United States?

[Read More.](#)



Journey Narratives



Stephanie Hicks

Stephanie Hicks served as the Associate Director of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, supporting DEI initiatives across all HR disciplines. Including, but not limited to, recruitment, learning and development, employee relations, and more. Stephanie is no longer at the University, but her contributions to our community are still celebrated. [Read More.](#)



Julie Collins, Ph.D.

Julie Collins serves as the Assistant Dean in the Office of Graduate Admissions and Financial Aid at the Medill School at Northwestern University. Julie has also worked in the financial aid offices at the Kellogg School of Management and the Chicago Financial Aid Office at Northwestern University. [Read More.](#)



Natalie Champagne

Natalie Champagne served as the Assistant Director of External Relations & Career Management for Northwestern University's Master of Science in Biotechnology (MBP) program. Natalie is no longer at the University, but her contributions to our community are still celebrated. [Read More.](#)



Darnell Hines

As the Associate Dean of Alumni Relations and Development, Darnell Hines is responsible for major and annual gifts, alumni relations, and donor relations and stewardship at Northwestern Pritzker Law. [Read More.](#)

Series: Is It Just Me!



Mindset: Career Challenge or Opportunity

Conversations with facilitator [Ellen Burton](#), the well-known author of 'Workplace Civility,' explore how perception can expand the strategic options for managing your career.



Your Response: The Only Thing You Can Control

Walter Crawford, an executive and leadership coach, is CEO of [Crawford Corner](#) and founding partner of [The Soul of Leading Institute](#). Walter provided insight into best practices for [controlling your emotions](#).



Gays and Gospel

By Vincent McCoy

[Read More](#)



Beyonce Mass

By Rev. D'ana Downing

[Read More](#)

Celebrating Black History Month

The national theme for the 2022 Black History Month: "Black Health and Wellness"

THE GRADUATE SCHOOL PRESENTS
ILLUMINATING BLACKNESS:
BLACK HISTORY THROUGH ART

Wednesday, February 16
5:00 PM CST
Zoom

Dwight White Jonathan Harris Rikki Byrd

Northwestern | OFFICE OF DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION BGSU



[Dr. Kenneth Washington](#)

What is Black Joy?

BLACK JOY IS PERSEVERANCE AND BLACK EXCELLENCE... A SPIRIT THAT CONNECTS US TO ONE ANOTHER AND THE LIFE ENERGY. PERSISTENCE IN THE FACE OF PERSECUTION... FINDING YOUR PEACE... DISCOVERING AND REDISCOVERING YOU... RESTORING HUMANITY AND CAPACITY... BLACK JOY IS YOU.

-KENNY

Centering Black Joy and Meaning in Life to -
Improve Our Collective Wellness



**Wellness Practices...with ease!
What it takes to maintain wellness.**

[Ellen Burton](#)

[Presentation](#) / [Additional Resources](#)



- [Understanding the Stress Response](#) | [Read More](#)
- [6 Red Flags Your Body is Breaking Down from Overwork](#) | [Read More](#)
- [MHA: Resources For Black And African Americans](#) | [Read More](#)
- [Books on Black Health and Wellness](#) | [Read More](#)
- [Be Well: Resources & Strategies to Tend to Your Well-Being](#) | [Read More](#)

Keep in Touch!

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