

Northwestern | BLACK PROFESSIONALS NETWORK

June 2, 2022 | Issue: Spring/Summer 2022

National News

A Promising Future of Firsts



Ketanji Brown Jackson New U.S. Supreme Court Justice

On February 25, 2022, President Joe Biden nominated Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson to become the 116th associate justice of the United States Supreme Court. A bipartisan group of senators confirmed her nomination on April 7, 2022. Judge Brown Jackson becomes the first Black woman to serve on the U.S. Supreme Court in its more than 200-year history.

[Read more from the White House.](#)

Vice President Harris Led Historic Court Confirmation

Vice President Kamala Harris, the first woman, Black person, and person of South Asian descent to hold the title, presided over Judge Brown Jackson's confirmation hearing with joy and pride. [Newsweek](#) and other outlets reported on a letter Harris penned to her goddaughter to mark the momentous occasion.



Karine Jean-Pierre Moves Into the Role of White House Press Secretary

Rounding out White House news, Karine Jean-Pierre, a veteran journalist, was promoted to White House Press Secretary, replacing her former boss Jen Psaki on May 14, 2022.

[Read the White House briefing.](#)

Northwestern News

Tillery Heads Northwestern's New DEI Business Forum

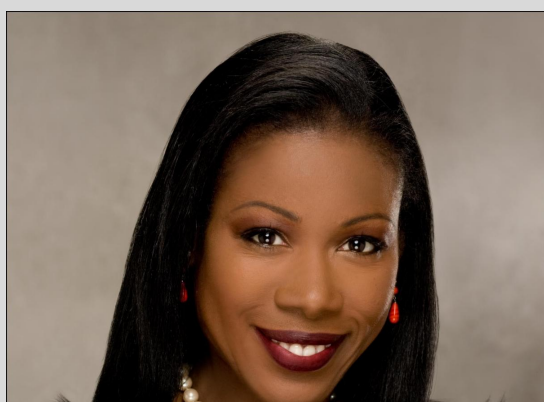
The Center for the Study of Diversity and Democracy (CSDD) at Northwestern University has launched a business forum that will connect academic researchers with industry leaders to address diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) issues arising in today's global marketplace. The forum aims to provide business leaders with cutting-edge social science research to generate insights they can translate into their own DEI initiatives.

The initiative is led by political scientist [Alvin B. Tillery Jr.](#), an associate professor of political science at Northwestern's Weinberg College of Arts and Sciences and director of the CSDD at Northwestern.

[Read the full Northwestern News story.](#)



Commencement Speaker and Alumna Get Honorary Degrees





Isabel Wilkerson

Pulitzer Prize winner, Isabel Wilkerson will deliver the Northwestern University 2022 Commencement address and will receive a Doctor of Humane Letters. [Read more.](#)



Eva Jefferson Paterson

Attorney, Civil Rights activist, Northwestern alum, and first Black student body president, Eva Jefferson Paterson '71 will be awarded a Doctor of Laws. [Read more.](#)

McPherson Moves to UChicago, Maintains Northwestern Connection Through Garrett Honor

Northwestern's former AVP for equity, Tishaunda McPherson, has left the University and accepted a new role. McPherson joined NORC at the University of Chicago as senior vice president and the organization's first-ever chief diversity officer. [Read more from NORC.](#)

McPherson earned her master of divinity from Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary in 2015 and this year was named a distinguished alum. She will be honored at the 165th commencement at Alice Millar chapel. [Read more.](#)



Upcoming BPN Events

Opportunities For Community and Connections

Juneteenth at the Black House

BPN welcomes its members and the Northwestern community to celebrate Juneteenth at The Black House.

Attendees will enjoy history, art, food, and more. Evanston entrepreneur and community organizer, Kemone Hendricks, will share the history of Juneteenth. Michael Cowan, museum preparator from the Museum of Science and Industry, will present slavery artifacts and Tracy Vaughn-Manley, Northwestern assistant professor of African American Studies, will share a personal collection of quilts.

June 15, 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
1914 Sheridan Rd
Evanston Campus



Block Museum Welcomes BPN

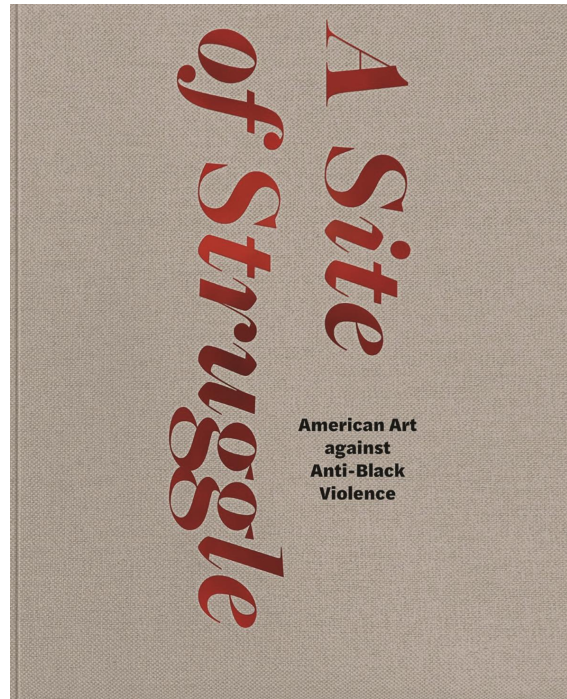
BPN members are invited to visit The Block Museum for a special event celebrating the groundbreaking exhibit "A Site of Struggle: American Art Against Anti-Black Violence."

Janet Dees, the exhibition head curator, will give a talk to orient visitors and share background on how the exhibit came to be. Participants will view the exhibit on a self-guided tour.

Lunch will be available outside.

SAVE THE DATE. More information will be provided soon.

July 7, 11:30 a.m to 1:30 p.m
Block Museum of Art
40 Arts Circle Dr
Evanston Campus



BPN Member News



Steven Adams and Veronica Womack on Inclusive Teaching

Associate Director of Inclusive Learning Communities at the Searle Center for Advancing Learning and Teaching, Veronica Womack, PhD, partnered with Northwestern Libraries' Steven Adams, Librarian for Graduate and Postdoctoral Initiatives, to facilitate the final Practicum on Inclusive Teaching for the academic year. [Learn more.](#)



Jabari Thomas Begins New Journey at UC Berkeley

BPN congratulates Jabari Thomas on his new role as IT Security Analyst at the University of California, Berkeley.

"My five years at Northwestern University, starting as an intern, becoming a full-time employee and a part-time student was an amazing experience and I'm forever grateful for the opportunity to be part of such an amazing institution. Thank you to all my wonderful colleagues for your support throughout my tenure."

BPN Past Events

Journey Narratives





Darnell Hines

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. He shared his professional journey with BPN on March 24. [Read more.](#)



Natalie Champagne

Natalie Champagne is the assistant director of career management and corporate engagement in the Office of Professional Education where she manages strategic direction for 10 professional graduate programs. She is also a lecturer in the Master of Biotechnology Program at the McCormick School of Engineering. She shared her journey on April 28.

Recent Dialogue Series Events

This past February, in honor of Black History Month, BPN hosted an expanded set of Dialogue Series offerings. In case you missed it, here is a recap below:

2/1 "Be Well: Resources and Strategies to Tend to Your Well-being" – Evelyn Cordero

2/8 "The Importance of Rest: Put Your Phone Down and Go to Bed" – Walter J Crawford

2/9 "Dialogue on Cryptocurrency" - Jabari Thomas

2/11 "Centering Black Joy and Meaning in Life to Improve Our Collective Wellness - Kenneth Washington

2/22 "Understanding and Enhancing Your Sphere of Influence" – Stefanie Hicks

2/24 "The Politics of COVID - Managing the Shame and Judgment" –Ellen Burton

The BPN dialogue series offers seminars, professional development, and wellness initiatives that address various topics pertinent to the Black professional experience.

Sessions are regularly led by Ellen Burton, Walter J. Crawford and Dr. Kenneth Washington.

[Learn more about the series and our trainers.](#)

STAY CONNECTED

Our Mission

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.

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