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 Northwestern Black professional experience.

Message from the BPN Chairs
Greetings village!!! I pray this message finds you well. As we move into spring and start to wrap up the academic year, I hope you can find time to relax, recharge, and enjoy the warmer weather. Your BPN leadership team continues to advocate for Black staff and center wellness, well-being, and our commitment to providing a safe space for dialogue. I encourage you to utilize the resources provided on our website and join us for our ongoing lunchtime chat series. I especially want to invite you to our Juneteenth celebration on Wednesday, June 14. More program details will be sent out over the listserv. I hope to see you all there.

Kind regards,

Tracey A. Gibson-Jackson

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**Journey Narratives**

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**Lorraine Goffe**

Lorraine Goffe serves as the Vice President for Human Resources and Chief Human Resources Officer, overseeing employee compensations, well-being, talent acquisition, and more. Lorraine assumed her role in March 2022 after holding similar roles at Penn State University, MIT, and Washington University in St. Louis. Read more about Lorraine's background.

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**Mongezi Mbebe**

As the program coordinator for the University of Stellenbosch Business School, Mongezi Mbebe has over 17 years of experience in higher education. Mongezi has worked at the University of Cape Town Institute of Development and Labor Law Unit, the UCT Commercial Law Faculty, and the Stellenbosch University Health Sciences Faculty. Read Mongezi's bio.

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**Yeki Mosomothane**

Yeki Mosomothane is the Multicultural Educator and
Coordinator at the Centre for Student Communities at Stellenbosch University, providing strategic leadership regarding multicultural education and diversity capacity development programs within the Student Communities and Structures. Read Yeki's bio.

Celebrating Black History Month
The national theme for the 2023 Black History Month 2023: “Black Resistance”

NU Rec. – Resources for BPN with Adrienne Gossett

Nurture Your Mind, Body & Soul with Evelyn Cordero

Presentation Recap

Presentation Recap
Spirituality as a Form of Resistance
with Walter Crawford

Utilizing self-care as a tool of resistance and preservation given the frequent exposure to systemic oppression and discrimination.

The Struggle Is Real - Our Strategy:
Resistance and Preservation
with Ellen Burton

Presentation | Additional Resources

Stay Tuned

BPN Juneteenth Celebration
Wednesday, June 14
Black House, 1914 Sheridan Road, Evanston, IL

Join us to celebrate Black independence and to fellowship with the BPN community.
More information coming soon!

Dialogue Session
A Holistic View of Wellness
with Walter Crawford

Presentation Recap

#BuildWealth Checklist I Mr. #BuildWealth Credo

BPN Spotlight

Kathleen Bethel
After 41 years of service, beloved librarian and BPN member Kathleen Bethel plans to retire at the end of this academic year. Kathleen has dedicated her career to uplifting the voices and stories of Black people worldwide, all while consulting and supporting generations of scholars. Learn more about Kathleen's incredible career.

Serena Simpson
IT Communications Specialist and BPN steering committee member Serena Simpson was awarded the 2022 Northwestern IT Employee Excellence Award this past February for her
contributions to several high-profile projects and collaboration across the department. Read more about the award.

Black Men Lead (BLM) Conference 2023
Black Men LEAD, a collaboration between Evanston Township High School, Northwestern University, and the surrounding community, hosted their 2023 conference earlier this year. This event allowed space for attendees to have open dialogue discussions and build connections. Read a recap of the event.

Community Reads


- From rags to richness: Piecing the patchwork of American culture | Prof Tracey-L
Vaughn-Manley reflects on the quilt as a historical document.

- Level UP National Panel calls for spotlight on declining Black student enrollment | Read more about the network and their call for action.

- Keeanga-Yamahtta Taylor, Khalil Gibran Muhammad & E. Patrick Johnson on the Fight over Black History | Read more on their response to the College Board's decision to revise African-American Studies curriculum.

- The Double Standard Against Angel Reese | Read more about the backlash she faced.

Share Your Good News!
Your BPN steering committee wanted to celebrate all the exciting accomplishments happening across our community. Have a service anniversary coming? Have you achieved a major milestone? Share your good news with us!

Submit Good News

Keep in Touch!

Send Us A Message | Visit BPN Online

NU Black Professionals Network | 1800 Sherman Avenue, Evanston, IL 60208

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