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# Black Hisotry Month Calendar

Eastern Washington University. Africana Studies Program

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### CELEBRATING BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Black History Month is one of the most revered times of the year for people of African descent in the United States. Founded in 1926, by prominent Black scholar and activist Carter G. Woodson, February was selected to give homage to the plethora of achievements and contributions of Black people in the United States. Originally it was organized as "Negro History Week" during the second week of February to recognize also the birthdays of President Abraham Lincoln and abolitionist and orator Frederick Douglass. The month is celebrated throughout the country by schools, churches, businesses, and community organizations with elaborate events and festivities. Black heroines and heroes from the past and present are honored and important landmarks in Black history are observed.

### 1997 BLACK HISTORY MONTH CALENDAR FEBRUARY

- 1-29      **"Black Women: Achievement Against the Odds."** *Black Education Program Offices--Tours are available for classes*
- 1           In 1902, poet and novelist Langston Hughes is born in Joplin, Mo
- 4           Rosa Parks, pioneer civil rights activist is born in 1913
- 7           Founded by Carter G. Woodson, Negro History Week is observed for the first time in 1926
- 8           **Black History Month Banquet,** *Ridpath Hotel, 6:00 p.m.*
- 9           Pulitzer prize-winning author Alice Walker is born in 1944
- 12          **Talk Show: "Special Preference or Leveling the Playing Field."** *EWU Cheney Campus, PUB 204-205 from 1:00-2:30 p.m.*
- 14          Frederick Douglas, "The Great Emancipator" is born in 1817
- 15          Henry Lewis is the first Black person to lead a symphony orchestra in the U.S.
- 16          Bessie Smith sells 800,000 copies of her first recording, "Downhearted Blues"
- 19          **Spike Lee's film "Get on the Bus"** *will be shown at 7:00 p.m. in the JFK Library, EWU Cheney Campus (Discussion to follow)*
- 21          Malcolm X (El-Hajj Malik El Shabazz is assassinated in New York in 1965
- 26          Panel Discussion: **"Criminal Justice or Just Us,"** *EWU Cheney Campus, PUB 204-205 from 1:00-2:30 p.m.*

*All events (excluding the banquet) are free and open to the public.  
For more information contact the Black Education Program at 359-6150.*

