

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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BLACK HISTORY MONTH EVENTS

SPEAKERS INCLUDE

Rev. James Lawson - Renowned Civil Rights Strategist

West Los Angeles College salutes the Freedom Riders on this 50th anniversary and invites the community to take part in its Black History Month events running from February 14 through February 25. All events are on campus at 9000 Overland Ave. (near Jefferson), Culver City 90230. Most events are free. Guests may park in any student lot with the purchase of a \$2 parking permit available in the parking lots.



REV. JAMES LAWSON, CIVIL RIGHTS LEADER

Wed, Feb 23 | The walk behind HLRC (Library) @ 12:30pm

“The Freedom Rides & Their Relevance Today”

On the eve of his assassination, Martin Luther King, Jr. called Rev. Lawson “the leading theorist and strategist of nonviolence in the world.” Rev. Lawson trained volunteers in nonviolent tactics, taught students how to organize sit-ins and other non-violent protests, and helped coordinate the Freedom Rides. From 1974 to 1999, Reverend Lawson lead Holman United Methodist Church in Los Angeles. He also served as the the president of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference for 14 years. In his retirement, he continues to train activists in nonviolence and to work in support of a number of causes.



MAYNARD BROWN, NTL TEACHER OF THE YEAR

Tues, Feb 22 | FA100 @ 7:00pm

“The Economics of the Freedom Rides”

After completing his B.S and M.B.A degrees at Cornell University, and running his own business, Brown returned to his alma mater Crenshaw High School as a full-time teacher. His expertise in economics and involvement with Junior Achievement Worldwide earned him their honor of 2006 National Teacher of the Year.

THE EVOLUTION OF BLACK MUSIC | Thurs, Feb 17 | FA100 @ 11:30am

This event features discussion and music from West faculty and students as well as our special guests:



Dr. Karen Wilson, UCR Professor: Wilson is a singer-storyteller, scholar and teaching artist. She sings music across the spectrum of the African Diaspora in the United States including spirituals, calls, hollers, jazz, blues, and rhythm and blues.

Kamasi Washington, Saxophonist: From his teens, Washington has performed with jazz legends. As a musician, he is a composer, performer and recording artist.

John Beatty, African Drumming: Accomplished musician and cultural instructor and member of the Long Beach African Study Group.

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