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## NEWS

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### GCC CELEBRATES BLACK HISTORY MONTH WITH MOTIVATIONAL LECTURES, MUSIC AND STORYTELLING

Deptford Twp. –Gloucester County College will commemorate Black History Month with musical presentations and special guest speakers that include a concert multimedia performance, a journey through the Underground Railroad, a cultural and leadership motivational talk, and professional storytelling. The events are free and open to the College community and the public.

On Thursday, Feb. 3, an interactive multimedia presentation, “King’s Dream,” will pay tribute to Nobel Peace Prize recipient and peaceful civil-rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. The era of the 1960s comes alive with images, songs, and narrative remembrances of a turbulent time in American history with stories about courageous human-rights activists of the 20<sup>th</sup> century and accounts of the challenges of the Vietnam War, the assassination of President John F. Kennedy and the final signing of the “Civil Rights Act” by President Lyndon B. Johnson. The performance will begin at noon in the Fine Arts Center.

Naomi Nelson, GCC grants and special projects administrator, will take guests on a journey to discover the Underground Railroad on Tuesday, Feb. 8, during a discussion that examines code words, hiding places including sites in South Jersey, historic figures and slavery escape routes to freedom. Nelson is the past vice president of programs at the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center. The lecture will begin at 12 p.m. in the Health Sciences building, room 500.

On Tuesday, Feb. 15, GCC will welcome motivational guest speaker Dion Jordon, a recognized authority on peak potential and personal development. Jordon will present back-to-back lectures beginning at noon in the Health Sciences building, room 500. “It’s Not about Race, but about a Journey” seeks to educate students and

communities about African-American heritage, promote diversity and offer a common understanding across all cultures to enhance social and leadership skills. The lecture will focus on the journey that all people share in making communities and colleges a better place. Jordon's second lecture, "The Power of Diversity in Leadership" will provide students with techniques and insight to help make them effective leaders and communicators. Students will learn how to resolve conflicts, make decisions to reach team goals as well as ways to develop strengths and abilities.

GCC assistant professor and professional storyteller Namorah Byrd will share African-American spoken-word traditions through poetry, prose, recitation, video and music on Thursday, Feb. 17. Adjunct instructor Dr. Ollievita Williams will join the talk discussing research procedures for tracing and documenting ancestry using resources such as the National Archives, federal and local census data, historical documents and ancestry.com. Individuals are asked to bring a favorite African-American authored poem, family photo or family story to share. Presentation times are 12 – 1 p.m. and 1:30 – 2:30 p.m. in the College Center Student Activities Mini-Center.

On Thursday, February 24, GCC students will match their knowledge of movies, music, television, and history during the A.R.T. (Audience Response Trivia) Game Show from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m. in the cafeteria.

For more information, call the Student Activities Office at (856) 415-2236.

GCC's 250-acre campus is located on Tanyard Road in Deptford, just off Exit 56 of Route 55.