

# Applying A Sankofa Bird Approach to 'Digging Deeper into Equity Issues: A Pathway for Supporting Higher Education and District Personnel to Combat Social and Racial Injustice

---

---

Why the Symbolic Sankofa Bird is proposed for this Presentation to the attendees for our Virtual Discussion?

Can we really dig deeper into equity issues without looking back at History?



By

Noran L. Moffett, Ed.D

---



Presented for the Ohio Deans Compact  
Annual Conference (Virtual 15 January 2021)

# Happy Birthday Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.



**FREEDOM IS NEVER  
VOLUNTARILY GIVEN  
BY THE OPPRESSOR;  
IT MUST BE  
DEMANDED BY THE  
OPPRESSED.**

**MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.**



# Introductory Statement for this Keynote Presentation

WITH THE RECENT EVENTS IN OUR COUNTRY AND NATION'S CAPITOL ON JANUARY 6, 2021, , IT IS SUGGESTED THAT THERE IS A NEED TO ENSURE THAT THE HIGH SCHOOL CURRICULUM AND COLLEGE CORE CURRICULUM PURPOSEFULLY REQUIRE COMPREHENSIVE DISCUSSIONS ABOUT THE ERA IN U.S. HISTORY RELATED TO THE CIVIL WAR AND RECONSTRUCTION (CITED WITH UPDATES FROM MOFFETT, & MOFFETT, 2015).

AT THIS TIME FOR EDUCATORS, ESPECIALLY IN THE FIELD OF TEACHER EDUCATION AND P-12 EDUCATION TO DEMONSTRATE A RENEWED COMMITMENT TO INFORMED DISCUSSIONS, RENEWED RESEARCH AND PEDAGOGICAL CONTEXT RELATED TO THE PERIOD IN AMERICAN HISTORY KNOWN AS "WAR BETWEEN THE STATES" AND "RECONSTRUCTION ERA FROM 1865-1877."



**"If a nation expects to be ignorant and free, in a state of civilization, it expects what never was and never will be. The functionaries of every government have propensities to command at will the liberty and property of their constituents."**

ATTRIBUTED TO: THOMAS JEFFERSON

# Deans Compact Statement & Dr. Carter G. Woodson for Keynote Address

## Compact Invitation to Stand Together Against Racial and Social Injustice

“At this historic moment, the Ohio Deans Compact stands with the Black community and social-justice allies in the fight against racism. We pledge action to interrupt systemic racism in all its forms and to speak out against the historical and persistent devaluing of Black lives. This pledge honors the Compact’s commitment to educational equity, social justice, and inclusivity. This commitment forms the centerpiece of our work. Going forward, our actions will continue to expand inclusive educator preparation programs in Ohio; and we will redouble our efforts to diversify the workforce of teachers and school administrators in the state. Simultaneously, we will strengthen our resolve to become an anti-racist organization and to use and inspire others to use anti-racist practices.”

Cited from

[https://www.ohiodeanscompact.org/images/pdf/Compact\\_position\\_statement\\_6.15.20\\_final.pdf](https://www.ohiodeanscompact.org/images/pdf/Compact_position_statement_6.15.20_final.pdf)

*“When you control a man’s thinking you do not have to worry about his actions.”*

*Those who have no record of what their forebears have accomplished lose the inspiration which comes from the teaching of biography and history.*

*“The mere imparting of information is not education.”*

Carter G. Woodson



# What is/has been your Contribution to the Theme of this Conference?

If someone asked another person close to you personally from the age of 18 till now, what would she/he say about your commitment to the Ohio Deans Compact Statement cited below:

*Take a moment and post an example of what would possibly be said:*

*“At this historic moment, the Ohio Deans Compact stands with the Black community and social-justice allies in the fight against racism. We pledge action to interrupt systemic racism in all its forms and to speak out against the historical and persistent devaluing of Black lives.”*

*Cited from: <https://www.ohiodeanscompact.org/upcoming-meetings-and-events/211-8th-annual-statewide-conference#day-3-january-15-2021>*

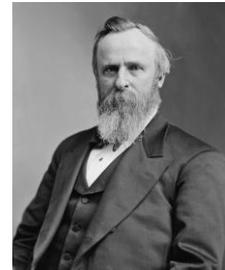


# Ulysses S. Grant & Rutherford B. Hayes:

## OHIO PRESIDENTS: Historical Significance for Discussion

"More of our country's presidents come from Ohio than from any other state. Eight of 46 American presidents were elected from the Buckeye State, earning Ohio the nickname "the Mother of Presidents."

"Mother of Presidents" is sometimes used to refer to Ohio. Seven United States Presidents were born in Ohio. They are Ulysses S. Grant (Point Pleasant), Rutherford Birchard Hayes (Delaware), James Abram Garfield (Orange Township - now Moreland Hills, Ohio), Benjamin Harrison (North Bend), William McKinley (Niles), William Howard Taft (Cincinnati), and Warren Gamaliel Harding (Corsica, now Blooming Grove). William Henry Harrison, born in Virginia but settled in Ohio, is also claimed as an Ohio president.



## Applying A Sankofa Bird Approach to ‘Digging Deeper into Equity Issues’: A Pathway for Supporting Higher Education and District Personnel to Combat Social and Racial Injustice

“African Americans were among the first residents of Ohio. Most of these people were free, but undoubtedly, a small number of them were slaves. Ohio's first constitution, the Ohio Constitution of 1803, outlawed slavery. Despite this legal protection, African Americans faced much racism and discrimination in the state. The state constitutional convention prohibited African-American men from voting. Black men and women could not serve in the militia, serve on juries, testify in court against whites, receive assistance at the "poor house," vote, or send their children to public schools. Many whites actively sought to prevent blacks from coming to Ohio, fearing a loss of jobs to African-American workers. Many white Ohioans were also racists. Despite the discrimination that African Americans endured, many black Ohioans favored life in Ohio rather than living as slaves in the South.” Cited from

[https://ohiohistorycentral.org/w/Category:African\\_Americans](https://ohiohistorycentral.org/w/Category:African_Americans)



## Applying A Sankofa Bird Approach to ‘Digging Deeper into Equity Issues’: A Pathway for Supporting Higher Education and District Personnel to Combat Social and Racial Injustice

“African Americans were among the first residents of Ohio. Most of these people were free, but undoubtedly, a small number of them were slaves. Ohio's first constitution, the Ohio Constitution of 1803, outlawed slavery. Despite this legal protection, African Americans faced much racism and discrimination in the state. The state constitutional convention prohibited African-American men from voting. Black men and women could not serve in the militia, serve on juries, testify in court against whites, receive assistance at the "poor house," vote, or send their children to public schools. Many whites actively sought to prevent blacks from coming to Ohio, fearing a loss of jobs to African-American workers. Many white Ohioans were also racists. Despite the discrimination that African Americans endured, many black Ohioans favored life in Ohio rather than living as slaves in the South.” Cited from

[https://ohiohistorycentral.org/w/Category:African\\_Americans](https://ohiohistorycentral.org/w/Category:African_Americans)



# An Overview Slide Presentation for the Planned Keynote Address

- Why Did you choose to become an Educator?
- A MLK Birthday Position Statement from Selected Quotes
- The Ohio Deans Compact Conference: *Digging Deeper into Equity Issues: Supporting Higher Education and District Personnel to Combat Social and Racial Injustice*
- A Social Studies and History approach to Diversity and preparation of Lesson Planning
- Does are Family History Impact our Belief in Diversity and Social Justice for All?
- The Civil War & Reconstruction SHOULD BE IMPORTANT for us to heal as a Nation-TEACHERS STAND UP!
- Music Matters When Communicating Social Justice and Diversity--Liberation Songs for the Soul-NLM Soundtrack
- Q&A



**If you are who you say you are? Who else believes it?**

# **Perspectives of My Commitment to the Theme from Current & Former Personal and Professional Human Interactions**

[What is your history for the Development of Serving the Community](#)

Current Perspective

Past Perspectives

Reflections from your commitment to the Future of



# Background on the Character

Among the attributes that can be stated by the “Father of Black History Celebration”, the following has been cited:

- Carter Godwin Woodson was an American historian, author, journalist and the founder of the Association for the Study of African American Life and History.
- He was one of the first scholars to study African-American history.

Cited from selected Internet Sources:

- Born: December 19, 1875, New Canton, VA
- Died: April 3, 1950, Shaw, Washington, D.C.
- Education: Harvard University, The University of Chicago, Berea College, Dunbar High School
- Siblings: Robert Woodson



“The so-called modern education, with all its defects, however, does others so much more good than it does the Negro, because it has been worked out in conformity to the needs of those who have enslaved and oppressed weaker peoples.”

Carter G. Woodson

Read more at: [https://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/carter\\_g\\_woodson\\_230690](https://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/carter_g_woodson_230690)

# Your Family Education and the U.S. Census: An Activity

- What do you think the term “Quadrafamily” means?
- Do you remember who taught you to read?
- You are to break up into groups of people born in different decades other than you?
- Your education should begin with you knowing how to [trace your history](#)
- <https://youtu.be/UqrpOAdrzaAQ?t=27s>

## Support for this activity was provided by:

- My Parents ( The Late Rev. M. J. Moffett & Alice Eloise Brown Moffett)
- The memory of Dr. Carter G. Woodson
- Ms Nurah-Talibah N. Moffett, BA, MSW
- Narsett L. Moffett-Wilkins, JD, LL.M.
- Dr. Wiley Bolden
- Dr. Pearlie C. Dove
- [Our Ancestors](#)
- [Federal Census Reports](#)



# From Then- to-Here-to-Eternity: Your family Ancestry is Cultural Diversity: Can we really impact change without digging into Ancestry?

- Have you been told who you are?
- By whom?
- Why?
- From your learned experiences, how do you understand history or **HIS-Story?**
- From your understanding, how do you understand her story-**HER-STORY?**



Historical Features and Factors to ponder by the Compact and its stakeholders

[What should have happen after the Civil War?](#)

[Nature Knows No Color Line-By J.A. Rodgers](#)

[W.E.B. Dubois and the Souls of Black Folks](#)



# Tell a Family Education Story Passed Down in Your Family

Do you remember who you were around the most from your earliest memory till you started to school?

Do you remember how you learned to read?

Do you remember the first book or part of a book read to you?

Who is the eldest family member that you know or knew as a child growing up between birth and elementary school?

Who is the eldest family member that you remember and can trace on either side of your family tree?

Do you know where that person lived and went to school?

## The Strategic Human Story

Humans are creatures of emotion, NOT LOGIC

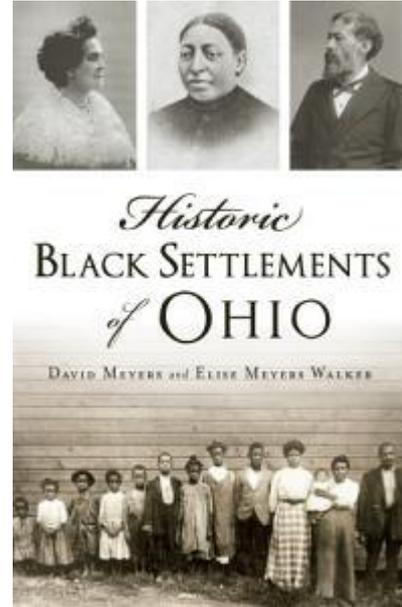
Purposeful Storytelling (planning, production, distribution and evaluation)

1. Brainstorm
2. Determine
3. Strategize:
4. Consider: Which channels to tell the story on to reach the audience
5. Choose: which channels to tell the story on to reach the audience
6. Evaluate: What attainable



# Suggested Summary Thoughts for IMPACT

“In the years leading up to the Civil War, Ohio had more African American settlements than any other state. Owing to a common border with several slave states, it became a destination for people of color seeking to separate themselves from slavery. Despite these communities having populations that sometimes numbered in the hundreds, little is known about most of them, and by the beginning of the twentieth century, nearly all had lost their ethnic identities as the original settlers died off and their descendants moved away. Save for scattered cemeteries and an occasional house or church, they have all but been erased from Ohio's landscape. **Father-daughter coauthors David Meyers and Elise Meyers Walker piece together the stories of more than forty of these black settlements.**”



# Q&A: If you could ask someone who voted in the Election of 1876 & 2020 from Ohio: What question(s) would you want to ask?

As an Educator what would ask?

The final Paragraph of the Ohio Deans Compact Statement reads:

As a Citizen, what would you ask?

As a contributor to the future of our children, what would you ask?

**To our higher education partners, our school district partners, our regional and state partners, and our partners from national and state professional associations: join us in meaningful and sustained action to eradicate racist beliefs and practices, cultivate inclusive mindsets, and transform our collective practice. All children in Ohio deserve teachers and school leaders who promote their wellbeing, listen to them, value their assets, stand side-by-side with them through their struggles, structure powerful learning experiences, provide guidance and support, and prepare them to take their place as engaged and caring members of a wider community.**

