



# State of North Carolina

**ROY COOPER**  
GOVERNOR

**BLACK HISTORY MONTH**

**2020**

**BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA**

## **A PROCLAMATION**

**WHEREAS**, Black History Month celebrates the journey, achievements, and contributions of African Americans and their pivotal role in shaping the state and nation; and

**WHEREAS**, Dr. Carter G. Woodson, founder of the Association for the Study of African American Life and History, first launched “Negro History Week” in 1926, and is widely regarded as the father of Black History; and

**WHEREAS**, African Americans have long embraced education as a conduit to freedom and success and, despite racial terror, North Carolina’s Black sons and daughters earned and imparted education to others near and far, using it to free themselves and uplift others; and

**WHEREAS**, the urgent need for education in the early 1900s led to the creation of Rosenwald Schools for African Americans, a concept of Booker T. Washington and Sears Roebuck President Julius Rosenwald, who financially partnered with Black communities to build these schools; in 1902 Charlotte Hawkins Brown established Palmer Memorial Institute, which for decades was America’s premier African American boarding school and one of several prominent North Carolina schools for Black children following the Civil War; and

**WHEREAS**, the desire for learning and social activism were sharpened by the writings, teachings and leadership of pioneering Black educators, including John Chavis, Dr. Anna Julia Cooper, Willa Player, the Rev. Pauli Murray, Dr. Maya Angelou, Blyden and Roberta Jackson, Ruth B. Jones, and Elizabeth D. Koontz; and

**WHEREAS**, North Carolina is home to the largest number of four-year, degree-granting Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) in the nation; our ten HBCUs have a rich heritage of education, activism, and service dating back to the foundation of Shaw University in 1865; and

**WHEREAS**, the quest for scholarship and achievement continues today as African Americans equipped with education and determination take leadership roles in government, business, science, academics and the arts; and

**WHEREAS**, the State of North Carolina has designated February 2020 as *Black History Month: Celebrating African Americans and Education*; we commend North Carolinians, past and present, for their visionary leadership and their remarkable contributions to educational advancement and intellectual expansion;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, ROY COOPER, Governor of the State of North Carolina, do hereby proclaim February 2020, as “**BLACK HISTORY MONTH**” in North Carolina, and commend its observance to all citizens.



  
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**Roy Cooper**  
Governor

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Great Seal of the State of North Carolina at the Capitol in Raleigh this thirtieth day of January in the year of our Lord two thousand and twenty and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and forty-fourth.