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We continue to highlight those members of our CSUN Black Community, both on and off campus.

CSUN

Issue
Two

BLACK ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

A Monthly Highlight Acknowledging Members of the CSUN Black Community!

Black Alumni Association

Alumni Shoutout Garrett Underwood & Dr. Harry Grammer

We're excited to see the impact these two will have on the lives of young adults, together

Meet Garrett and Dr. Grammer

Dr. Harry Grammer founded *New Earth* in 2004 and has been helping to reform the juvenile justice system in Los Angeles County ever since. He earned his Ph.D. in Community, Liberation, & Eco-Psychology at Pacifica Graduate Institute in Santa Barbara and is now the Board Chair of its Alumni Association. In 2017, Harry was honored as a CNN Hero, and in 2018 he was selected as one of 20 inaugural Obama Foundation Fellows from over 20,000 applicants in 191 countries. He brings his leadership and lived experience, with a background in teaching arts and advocacy to systems-impacted youth, to his continuing work as a nationwide activist and educator.

Garrett Underwood founded *Seed House Project* in 2018 and has been helping to combat homelessness among young adults. After starting a Christian clothing company, Garrett then started an employment program. The program partnered with various shelters throughout the country, conducting career development workshops. Three years ago he took his drive to combat homelessness to the next level. He turned his home into a shelter to dedicated to youth experiencing homelessness. Now the home that he grew up in now has the capacity to house 16 young adults.



"The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others" -Mahatma Gandhi

CSUN Black History Month

This year has been full of transitions, and due to covid over the past two years, the celebration of Black History Month (BHM) has been virtual. BHM 2022 was celebrated in a hybrid method, with in-person and virtual events. In collaboration with other on-campus organizations, The Black Alumni Association helped create educational events for the CSUN community. The BAA would like to thank all our Black Alumni Members who sat on a panel discussion that was hosted by (The Black House, Career Center, The Black Alumni Association). The panel was full of professionals within different career paths that talked about their experiences while at CSUN. The panel also discussed their experiences navigating upper management while being black. Thank you to all those who joined!



Student Highlight Arin Alexander

Arin Alexander is a graduating senior majoring in computer science. She serves as the President of Black Student Union and Society of Women Engineers and the Treasurer of the National Society of Black Engineers and Girls Who Code and made Girls Who Code a recognized club at CSUN in 2020. Arin is a strong advocate for Black students who want to gain a higher education especially in STEM as well as womxn in STEM. In her free time, she enjoys reading and going to Disneyland where she one hopes to become an Imagineer in their Software Development or Engineering department. Arin is also a dedicated server, where she gives back to her community in any way she can. It is her hope to one day also make a major contribution to younger females and people on the spectrum who want to pursue STEM in any way possible.

Faculty Highlight Dr. James Henry

“Life’s most persistent and urgent question is, ‘What are you doing for others?’” -Martin Luther King Jr.



Dr. James L. Henry Jr. graduated with a bachelor’s degree in African American Studies in 1991 from CSU, Northridge. He received an Interdisciplinary Master’s Degree in Educational Policy and Leadership and African American Studies in 1994 from CSU, Northridge as well. Dr. Henry completed his Doctorate in Higher Educational Leadership in December of 2017. Dr. Henry also has a social science teaching credential and has been an Retention Specialist with the Educational Opportunity Program for the past 25 years.



He has taught several African American studies courses including History, African American Government, and Black Culture. He has taught at Los Angeles Valley College, Los Angeles Mission College, Ventura College and CSU, Northridge. He is the past faculty advisor to the Black Student Union at CSU, Northridge. He is currently teaching African American Political institutions, a Black perspective at CSU, Northridge.

Publications:

“The Impact of Utilizing a Strength Intervention to improve Self-Efficacy in low-income first-generation students.” 2016

“The Education of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.” Master’s Thesis, 1994

“The Importance of Values,” in Black Voices, ed, Scott, J, Northridge, 1985

Dr. Henry is a member of the National Council on Black Studies and presented his research on low-income first-generation student at the National Council on Black Studies in New Orleans.