



Each month, the Office of Equal Opportunity (OEO) looks forward to providing content celebrating the diversity across our state workforce. We want to embrace the differences that help make us better together. The OEO believes diversity and inclusion are everyone's responsibility and we hope all state team members carry such responsibility with honor, courage, and passion. Check us out [here](#)!

## Strengthening Communities for the Future: Black History in the Making

*"If there is no struggle, there is no progress." - Frederick Douglass, 1857.*

February is Black History Month. As we acknowledge the trials and triumphs of Blacks and African Americans throughout U.S. history, let us also celebrate the progress! Black history is essential to the ongoing story of America. Blacks and African Americans are continuously making history today and finding their own successes.

Here are just a few Black and African American success stories:

Support Black Owned (SBO) was created as a one-stop source to bring status to Black business owners and consumers. SBO offers premier Black-owned business listings and tools allowing businesses to invest and build wealth within their communities. To view Black-owned businesses in your area, [click here](#).

Marian Stubbs Thomas created Jack and Jill of America, Incorporated in 1938. The mission of Jack and Jill is to nurture future Black and African American leaders aged 2-19, by strengthening children through leadership development, volunteer service, philanthropic giving and civic duty. Chapters were created all across the country. For more information on the Jack and Jill St. Louis, Missouri Chapter, [click here](#). For more information on the Central Missouri Chapter of Jack and Jill of America, Incorporated, [click here](#).

You're invited to join us on **Feb. 23**, for the State of Missouri's Black History Month Celebration. We will honor the contributions made by Blacks and African Americans and celebrate Black History in the making. If you cannot make it to the live event, we will also be recording it to watch afterward!

Contact us if you have ideas on diverse groups to celebrate at [CelebrateDiversity@oa.mo.gov](mailto:CelebrateDiversity@oa.mo.gov).