



7<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL

# BLACK

## EXPERIENCE SUMMIT

*Forging Democracy: Black Womanhood  
and the Long March for Civil Rights*

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2024 | 12 - 4 PM  
VERITAS AUDITORIUM | ELMS COLLEGE

**CELEBRATING BLACK HISTORY MONTH**

HOSTED BY THE ELMS COLLEGE PRESIDENT'S OFFICE  
AND THE OFFICE OF DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

ELMS COLLEGE • 291 SPRINGFIELD STREET • CHICOPEE, MA 01013 • 413.265.2343



## **Seventh Annual Black Experience Summit**

### **Forging Democracy: Black Womanhood and the Long March for Civil Rights**

As we honor the 60th anniversary of key moments in the Civil Rights Movement—including the Voting Rights Act—we also look toward an election year in which many scholars argue that democracy itself is on the ballot. The 7th annual Black Experience Summit seeks to make visible the pivotal and foundational role that Black women have played in forging, defining, defending and preserving the very fabric of U.S. democratic ideals and practices, modeled the world over. Black womanhood—uniquely situated at the intersection of race, gender, class and sexuality—offers a particular sensibility that reflects the everyday, radical acts of love, survival, community-building, and resistance aimed at dismantling structures of oppression and refashioning a more just nation overtime. This multigenerational knowledge and wisdom provide each of us, especially our young voters, with an indispensable blueprint for civic engagement in the long march toward liberation.

In keeping with their mission, the Sisters of St. Joseph of Springfield is co-sponsoring the Seventh Annual Black Experience Summit with Elms College. The Sisters of St. Joseph of Springfield are joined together in the spirit of their mission, “that all may be one.” They strive to unite neighbor with neighbor and neighbor with God without distinction, to live simply, and act for justice.





### **Dr. Harry Dumay, Ph.D., MBA**

is President of the College of Our Lady of the Elms. Prior to joining Elms College, Dr. Dumay was Senior Vice President for Finance and Chief Financial Officer at Saint Anselm College; Chief Financial Officer, Associate Dean for Finance and Information Technology at the Paulson School of Engineering and Applied Sciences at Harvard University; and has also held leadership positions in

finance and administration at Boston College and Boston University. Dr. Dumay received a BS degree magna cum laude in Mechanical Technology from Lincoln University, Missouri; a MA degree in Public Administration from Framingham State University; a MBA and graduate certificate in Corporate Finance from Boston University; and a Ph.D. in Higher Education Administration from Boston College.

Dr. Dumay has consulted internationally on projects related to international higher education and economic development with organizations in Europe and in the Caribbean. Dr. Dumay is a Board member for the Council of Independent Colleges (CIC). He is a past Commissioner and Treasurer for the New England Commission on Higher Education (NECHE) and a member of NECHE's Annual Report on Finance and Enrollment committee. Dr. Dumay also serves as a Board member, Treasurer, and Member of the Executive Committee for the Association of Colleges of St. Joseph. He serves on several other boards including Endicott College, the Western Massachusetts Economic Development Council, the Pope Francis Preparatory School, Build Health International, Health Equity International, and the Haiti Development Institute at the Boston Foundation.



### **Sister Elizabeth Sullivan, SSJ**

is the President of the Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Springfield, previously serving as their Vice-President from 2011-2017. Sr. Betsy currently serves as the Oncology Care Model Program Coordinator at Sister Caritas Cancer Center, following her three decades of experience as Administrator of the Mont Marie Health Care Center, Inc. She was also the Principal of Sacred Heart

Elementary School in Holyoke, MA. Sr. Betsy received a Master's of Health-Care Administration from St. Louis University, an M.A. in Human Relations and Community Affairs from American International College, a Certificate in Elementary School Administration from Catholic University of America and a B.A. in History and Education from College of Our Lady of the Elms.

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## Event Schedule

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- 11:55-12:00 p.m. **Prelude**  
Summit Opens
- 12:00 - 12:03p.m. **Welcome and Introduction of Elms College President**  
Jennifer Shoaff, Ph.D.  
Chief Diversity Officer, Elms College
- 12:03 - 12:10 p.m. **President's Welcome and Remarks**  
Harry Dumay, Ph.D., MBA, President, Elms College
- 12:10 - 12:15 p.m. **Co-Sponsor Remarks**  
Elizabeth T. (Betsy) Sullivan, SSJ  
President, Congregation of the Sisters  
of St. Joseph of Springfield
- Part I: Forging Democracy: The Struggle for Freedom**
- 12:15 - 12:45 p.m. **Documentary Screening**  
Excerpt, Stamped From the Beginning (2023)  
Directed by Roger Ross Williams
- 12:45 - 12:50 p.m. **Introduction of Distinguished Speakers**  
Tori Accorsi, Elms College Senior
- 12:50 - 1:30 p.m. **Moderated Discussion**  
Distinguished Speakers:  
Brittney Cooper, Ph.D., Rutgers University  
Kellie Carter Jackson, Ph.D., Wellesley College  
Moderated by Jennifer Shoaff, Ph.D., Elms College
- 1:30 - 2:00 p.m. **Intermission**  
Refreshments in Berchmans Rotunda
- Part II: Defending Democracy: An Anti-Racist Solution**
- 2:00 - 2:15 p.m. **Spoken Word Performance**  
Poet: Lyrical Faith  
Introduction by Aniah Daniel-Gresham,  
Elms College Freshman
- 2:15 - 2:45 p.m. **Documentary Screening**  
Excerpt, Stamped From the Beginning (2023)  
Directed by Roger Ross Williams
- 2:45 - 2:50 p.m. **Introduction of Panelists**  
Joy Harris, Elms College Senior
- 2:50 - 3:30 p.m. **Moderated Discussion with Distinguished Speakers and Invited Panelists**  
Distinguished Speakers:  
Brittney Cooper, Ph.D., Rutgers University  
Kellie Carter Jackson, Ph.D., Wellesley College.  
Invited Panelists: LaTonia Monroe Naylor,  
Stephanie Logan, Ed.D, Springfield College  
Moderated by Tyra Good, Ph.D., Elms College
- 3:30 - 3:50 p.m. **Q&A**
- 3:50 - 4:00 p.m. **Call to Action**  
Elms College Alumni:  
Nadia French-Graham, Class of '23 and  
Pedro De Jesus, Class of '22

Book-signing to follow featuring works by Dr. Brittney Cooper,  
Dr. Kellie Carter Jackson and LaTonia Morgan Naylor

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## Distinguished Speakers

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**Brittney Cooper, Ph.D.** is Professor of Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies and Africana Studies. Prof. Cooper is also the Principal Investigator and Founding Director of the Race and Gender Equity (RAGE) Lab at Rutgers. Her books include *Beyond Respectability: The Intellectual Thought of Race Women*, winner of the 2018 Merle Curti Prize for Best Book in U.S. Intellectual History from the Organization of American Historians; the New York Times bestseller *Eloquent Rage: A Black Feminist Discovers Her Superpower*; *Feminist AF: A Guide to Crushing Girlhood* (co-authored with Susana Morris and

Chanel Craft Tanner) a Kirkus top Young Adult Book of 2021 and a nominee for the Garden State Teen Book Award from the New Jersey Library Association; *Stand Up!: 10 Mighty Women Who Made a Change*; and *The Crunk Feminist Collection* (co-edited with Susana Morris and Robin Boylorn). Cooper co-founded the Crunk Feminist Collective, a Hip Hop Generation Feminist Collective of Women of Color Activists and Scholars. They ran the highly successful Crunk Feminist Collective Blog which was named a top blog by New York Magazine in 2011. Today, they co-edit *The Remix*, a weekly substack newsletter.

Dr. Cooper has also been awarded prizes or been a named finalist for several awards related to her digital commentary. She is currently a contributor at *The Cut/* New York Magazine and she is a former columnist at Salon.com, Cosmopolitan.com, and a former contributor at Time.com. Dr. Cooper frequently appears as a commentator on MSNBC and NPR, has appeared in several documentaries on Netflix and PBS, and her commentary has been published at the New York Times, the Washington Post, *Ebony Magazine*, *Essence Magazine*, *Time Magazine*, *Marie Claire*, PBS and many other outlets. In 2016, she gave a TED Talk for TED Women on "the Racial Politics of Time." To date, her talk has been viewed over 1 million times. She has been named to *The Root.com's* Root 100, an annual list of top Black influencers four times.



**Kellie Carter Jackson, Ph.D.** is the Michael and Denise '68 Associate Professor in the Department of Africana Studies and the chair of Africana Studies at Wellesley College. She is the author of the award winning book *Force & Freedom: Black Abolitionists and the Politics of Violence*. Her book won the James Broussard Best First Book Prize and was a finalist for the Frederick Douglass Book Prize, the Museum of African American History Stone Book Prize and listed among 13 books to read on African American History by the Washington Post. Her essays have been featured in *The New York Times*, *Washington Post*,

*The Atlantic*, *The Guardian*, *The Los Angeles Times*, and the *Boston Globe*. She has also been featured a host interviews or documentaries for Netflix, MSNBC, PBS, *Good Morning America*, *CBS Mornings*, CNN, MSNBC, and AppleTV's highly acclaimed "Lincoln's Dilemma." She is the host and executive producer of "You Get a Podcast!: The Unauthorized Study of the Queen of Talk" and co-host of the Radiotopia podcast "This Day in Esoteric Political History." Carter Jackson serves as a Historian-in-Residence for the Museum of African American History in Boston and is commissioner for the Massachusetts Historical Commission. Her next book, *We Refuse: A Forceful History of Black Resistance to White Supremacy* will be out in the spring of 2024 with Basic Books.

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## Featured Documentary

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Oscar-winning director Roger Ross Williams brings Dr. Ibram X. Kendi's New York Times bestseller to the screen with **Stamped From the Beginning**. Published in 2016, Dr. Kendi's National Book Award winner chronicles the entire story of anti-Black racist ideas and their staggering power over the course of American history.

Williams' documentary adaptation uses an innovative animation process that blends live action with the art of the era to illuminate figures and moments both well-known and obscure, both historical and contemporary. Leading female academics and activists such as Dr. Angela Davis, Honorée Fanonne Jeffers, Brittany Packnett Cunningham, Dr. Jennifer L. Morgan, and Dr. Kendi guide viewers through a searing account

of how racist tropes and imagery were developed and enshrined in American culture. Directed and produced by Williams (Cassandro, Music by Prudence, Love to Love You, Donna Summer), *Stamped From the Beginning* is executive produced by Dr. Kendi and NAACP Image Award winner Mara Brock Akil (*Girlfriends*, *The Game*, *Being Mary Jane*).

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## Spoken Word Performance

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**Lyrical Faith** is a Black American Educator, Activist and Spoken Word Poet from The Bronx, NY. She has been featured at colleges, universities, and venues across the country and globally. She is the 3rd ranked Woman Poet in the World as of the 2022 Women of the World Poetry Slam, a two-time Bronx Poet Laureate finalist, a multi-time award recipient of citywide and statewide arts agencies, and the 2015 Syracuse University Poet of the Year.

She's a graduate of the Public Relations program at Syracuse University, a Masters degree recipient of the Higher Education & Student Affairs program at NYU, and a current Social Justice Education

Doctoral student at UMass Amherst studying the intersections of arts and activism. Her work has been featured on NPR, Write About Now Poetry, Huffington Post Black Voices, and News 12 The Bronx. Through her poetry, Lyrical Faith strives to inspire, educate and advocate for intersectional and institutional issues by merging the arts and activism from a faith-based worldview.

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## Invited Panelists

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**Stephanie R. Logan, Ed.D** is an associate professor of elementary and multicultural education at Springfield College. She is a former elementary school teacher and a former elementary and middle school counselor. Her research interests include preparing culturally competent pre-service teachers, creating inclusive classroom and campus environments, and social studies teaching in elementary classrooms, with foci on Culturally Responsive, Teaching Multicultural Education, Social Justice Education and Black Women in Higher Education.

Dr. Logan received her Doctorate of Education from Morgan State University, Baltimore, MD, Master of Arts from Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio and Bachelor of Science from Morgan State University, Baltimore, MD.



**LaTonia Monroe Naylor** is a Chief Business Educator with a background in both for-profit and nonprofit sectors. She founded Monroe Naylor Consulting LLC. and co-founded Parent Villages Inc. and VITAL Center, Inc.. A Master of Science in Nonprofit Management and Philanthropy from Bay Path College, Monroe Naylor's skill set includes certification as a facilitator, trainer, grant writer, public speaker, and tax professional, as well as authorship of her first book, "Mission-Rich AND Profit-Powered."

Monroe Naylor serves as an at-large elected member of the Springfield School Committee, Vice-chair of the MASC (Mass Association of School Committees) Division 10: Diversity, Inclusive, Equity Committee, appointee on DESE's RIAC (Racial Imbalance Advisory Council), Board Chair of Parent Villages, Inc., and board member of Young Scholars Fund, Inc., and Springfield Partners for Community Action. She has been recognized for her leadership at the state level and has received numerous accolades, including recognition as a member of the BusinessWest 40 Under 40 Class of 2016, Class of 2020 Massachusetts Commonwealth Unsung Heroine, 2021 Commonwealth Black Excellence Honoree, and 2022 Springfield Urban League of Springfield, Community Builder Award.

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## Moderators

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**Tyra Good, Ph.D.** is the inaugural executive director of the Cynthia A. Lyons Center for Equity in Urban Education and an associate professor of education at Elms College. She is also the founder of GOOD Knowledge Connections LLC.

Dr. Good has received a myriad of award recognitions for her dedication in preparing teachers and school leaders to transform learning ecosystems by influencing policies that expand equitable practices in global education. Good is a co-author in two International Best-Selling Books in which she writes about reimagining urban education. She is also the co-editor of *Black Women Navigating Historically White Higher*

*Education Institutions and the Journey Toward Liberation*. Dr. Good received her bachelor's in business management from Howard University, a master of arts in teaching from Chatham University, and a doctorate in educational leadership and evaluation from Duquesne University.



**Jennifer Shoaff, Ph.D.** is Chief Diversity Officer and Assistant Professor of Anthropology at Elms College. Her book, *Borders of Visibility: Haitian Migrant Women and the Dominican Nation-State*, is the first comprehensive ethnography of Haitian migrant women's racialized experiences of mobility and containment within the Dominican Republic. Dr. Shoaff's scholarship is also featured in *Feminist Studies*, the *Journal of Haitian Studies* and *Transatlantic Feminisms: Women and Gender Studies in Africa and the Diaspora*, edited by Cheryl R. Rodriguez, Dzodzi Tsikata, and Akosua Adomako Ampofo.

An educator at heart, Dr. Shoaff's interdisciplinary teaching expertise draws from postcolonial, feminist, antiracist and critical ethnographic theory, pedagogy and methodology. She has developed university curricula for Anthropology, Border Studies, Gender and Race Studies, Africana Studies, Latinx Studies, and Latin American and Caribbean Studies. Dr. Shoaff received her Ph.D. and M.A. in Anthropology from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, an M.A. in Latin American Studies from San Diego State University, and a B.S. in Biology from Creighton University in Omaha, NE.

## **Special Thanks goes to the Black Experience Summit Planning Committee**

Jennifer Shoaff, Ph.D. (*Chair*)

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