



# State of North Carolina

Roy Cooper  
Governor

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

2017

BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

## A PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the national theme for Black History Month in 2017 highlights the historic success of African Americans in overcoming the crisis in black education, and in North Carolina we celebrate the ascent of African American people and communities through education in centuries past and for centuries to come; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Carter G. Woodson is known as the father of Black History, and Black History Month originated from “Negro History Week” established in 1926 by Dr. Woodson and the Association for the Study of African American Life and History, and is now celebrated throughout the entire month of February; and

WHEREAS, the sons and daughters of North Carolina have quenched the thirst for education and knowledge, sharing it and using its power to uplift a people; and

WHEREAS, Shaw University in Raleigh was founded in 1865 as the first African American institution of higher learning in the South, and whose graduates were founders of North Carolina Central University, Elizabeth City State University, and Fayetteville State University, and where was housed North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University for its first year, making Shaw a fount nurturing opportunity and hope for a people; and

WHEREAS, North Carolina is home to the largest number of four-year, degree-granting Historically Black Colleges and Universities in the nation; and

WHEREAS, John Chavis from Halifax County, a Revolutionary War veteran, a free man of color educated by the president of Princeton University, a licensed Presbyterian minister in 1800, and a teacher of white students by day and black students by night, is considered by some to be the most educated African American in America at the time; and

WHEREAS, Anna Julia Cooper of Raleigh, enrolled in the first class at St. Augustine’s Normal School and Collegiate Institute upon its opening in 1868, earned a master’s degree in mathematics from Oberlin College in 1887 and became a school principal, college professor, activist for civil rights and women’s rights; earned a doctorate from the Sorbonne in Paris and won international acclaim as a beacon for equality; and wrote “A Voice from the South,” the first book-length feminist analysis of the condition of African Americans; and

WHEREAS, Charlotte Hawkins Brown, born in Henderson and educated in Massachusetts, established Palmer Memorial Institute in Sedalia in 1902 to feed the hunger for learning of African American youth, creating a day and boarding school that was fully accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools and became a destination for blacks from across the country and internationally, as Dr. Brown became nationally known and spoke out for the American principals of freedom and justice for all people; and

WHEREAS, Annie Wealthy Holland, a Virginian who in 1911 became a teaching supervisor in North Carolina and in 1915 was named state demonstration agent for North Carolina, effectively serving as state supervisor for black elementary schools, traveling to every county to teach demonstration classes in subjects from reading to nutrition and sewing, and was founder of the first African American parent-teacher association in North Carolina; and

WHEREAS, Julius Chambers from Montgomery County, became a distinguished jurist who in 1971 won the Supreme Court case of *Swann v. Charlotte-Mecklenburg Board of Education*, which established the nation’s commitment to end racially segregated schools and helped to provide access to a quality education for all children in America; and

WHEREAS, African Americans have contributed and continue to contribute significantly to remedying the crisis in education, and furthering the ascent of African Americans in the great State of North Carolina and beyond;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, ROY COOPER, Governor of the State of North Carolina, do hereby proclaim February 2017, as “BLACK HISTORY MONTH” in North Carolina and commend its observance to all citizens.



  
Roy Cooper  
Governor