

Black History Month 2024

During Black History Month 2024, the Appalachian Studies Association restates an ongoing commitment to anti-racist perspectives and actions. Echoing the voices identifying Black history as American history, ASA unequivocally celebrates Black history as Appalachian history. As ASA invites Appalachian folx and friends to Pride in Identity, Culture, and Geography at next month's annual conference, we call attention to the reality that Appalachia is made of many. Knowing that Appalachia is many, however, represents only a small portion of the work. Anti-racist praxis requires ever-expanding action.

In laying the foundation for Black History Month in the early twentieth century, Carter G. Woodson sought to expand knowledge from a focus on notable Black individuals to wider understandings of Black culture. Over 100 years later, ASA partners with those continuing Woodson's work through deliberate action to uplift and center the experiences of Black and African American Appalachians, individually and collectively.

Although vital, the Appalachian Studies Association recognizes that celebration and attention alone is not enough. ASA calls for all individuals and groups associated with Appalachia (and beyond) to join in the work of actively reimagining and recreating systems built upon and woven together with historical and continuing racism.