



## MEDIA RELEASE

---

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

February 16, 2016

---

**CONTACT INFORMATION:**

Lloyd Q. Johnston II

Rockford NAACP

Phone: 815-969-6033 / Cell: 779-210-9140

Email: [phamily32@gmail.com](mailto:phamily32@gmail.com)

### NAACP, NCNW INC., ROCKFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY, ROCKFORD PARK DISTRICT AND THE CITY OF ROCKFORD PRESENT THE 6<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL BLACK HISTORY MONTH OBSERVANCE

- WHAT:** The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), in partnership with the National Council of Negro Women Inc. (NCNW) Rockford Section, Rockford Public Library, Rockford Park District, and the City of Rockford invites the community to join us for, "*From Moments to Movements*," the *sixth Annual Black History Month Observance*. Rick Daniels, Interim Dean of Students at Rock Valley College will be the featured guest speaker. Join us as we reflect on the modern civil-rights era with oratory and song.
- WHEN:** Thursday, February 18, 2016  
6:30 p.m.
- WHERE:** Nordlof Center  
118 N. Main St., Rockford, IL  
Parking is available in the adjacent lot.
- INTERVIEWS:** Mayor Larry Morrissey, City of Rockford; Lynn Stainbrook and Fayrene Muhammad, Rockford Public Library; Dion Simpson and Lloyd Johnston, Rockford NAACP; Deetra Sallis and Paulette Gilbert, NCNW Inc., Rockford; and Danielle Potter and Nicole Lynch, Rockford Park District.
- PHOTO OP:** Cameras are welcome to film the performances and Black History exhibits.
- PARTNERS:** NAACP, NCNW Inc., Rockford Section, Rockford Park District and the City of Rockford

**ABOUT BLACK HISTORY MONTH:**

Every year, during Black History Month, America celebrates the invaluable contributions that the African-American community has made to the culture and history of our nation. The tradition of Black History Month goes back to the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. NAACP leader and legendary historian/educator, Dr. Carter G. Woodson, originally founded "Negro History Week" in 1926, at a time when most history books simply omitted any African-American history and the central role African-Americans played in the birth of America as we know it. Woodson chose February because it coincided with the birthdays of two men who fought for the freedom of American slaves: Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass. In 1976, Negro History Week was expanded to Black History Month. It has marked an essential time to study and reflect on the collective history of Americans of African descent.

**ABOUT THE NAACP:**

The **NAACP** is one of the oldest and most influential civil rights organizations in the United States. Its mission is "to ensure the political, educational, social, and economic equality of rights of all persons and to eliminate racial hatred and racial discrimination." The NAACP was founded on February 12, 1909 by a diverse group composed of W.E.B. Du Bois, Ida B. Wells, Archibald Grimké, Henry Moscowitz, Mary White Ovington, Oswald Garrison Villard, William English Walling (the last son of a former slave-holding family) and Florence Kelley, a social reformer and friend of Du Bois. Jane Addams – Founder of 'Hull House' - was also a founding member of the NAACP, and worked closely with Ida B. Wells to address the rights of women. The current Rockford branch president is Dion Simpson.

**ABOUT NCNW INC., ROCKFORD SECTION:**

Founded in 1035, **NCNW Inc.**, was organized by Mary McLeod Bethune as an organization of organizations. The purpose was to address the significant challenges facing our families and communities. The local section of NCNW was organized in 1965. The mission of NCNW is to lead, develop, and advocate for women of African descent as they support their families and communities. NCNW fulfills this purpose through research, advocacy, and national and community-based services and programs on issues of health, education and economic empowerment in the United States and Africa. With its 39 national affiliates and more than 240 sections, NCNW is a 501(c)3 organization with an outreach to nearly four million women. The current president of the Rockford Section is Deetra Sallis.

###