BLACK TO THE FUTURE

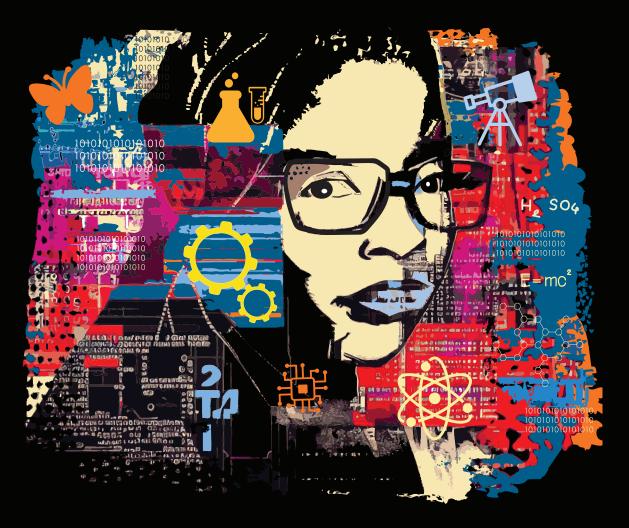UMass Boston

Black Excellence in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM)

BLACK LIVES MATTER DAY | **NOVEMBER 6, 2023**

In November 2020, Chancellor Marcelo Suárez-Orozco declared that UMass Boston will observe Black Lives Matter (BLM) Day every year on the first Monday of November. This day at UMass Boston is an integral step toward enhancing our campus environment by signifying our recognition of the plight facing Black people in the United States and our commitment to advocating for racial justice locally, regionally, nationally, and internationally. As an institutional leader for equity and social justice, UMass Boston understands BLM as a human rights issue and declaration. Thus, the establishment of BLM Day serves as a model for all colleges and universities to follow as an example of transformational equity-minded leadership in action. BLM Day is dedicated to those who have been unjustly harmed and/or killed as a result of police brutality, acts of anti-Black racism, and systemic oppression.

For biographies of BLM Day 2023 participants, use this QR code.

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9:00 a.m. **Doors Open & Check-In Begins**
Campus Center/3rd Floor/Ballroom

T-Shirts available on first come,
first serve basis

9:05 a.m. **Welcome**
Campus Center/3/Ballroom

- **Chancellor's Welcome**
- **Overview of BLM Day and Opening Remarks by Joseph N. Cooper, PhD**
- **Eugene Katuramu,** Black Student Center

9:15 a.m. **Panel by the National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE): "Promoting Tech Equity for Our Community Now and Beyond"**
Campus Center/3rd Floor/Ballroom

Panelists: **Adedire Adesiji, Michelle Barnes, Clifton Orcel,** and **Robyn Gibson**

Moderator: **Louvere Walker-Hannon,** NSBE Boston Professionals - Programs Chair

In today's society, technology is all around us and it is used for a variety of applications. However, when technology is used in some instances the impact of tech on certain communities has not been fully recognized. In fact a series of questions arises. Some of these questions are is tech equitable, can tech be made to be equitable, or how can members of our community harness tech. These questions and other related topics will be discussed in this panel.

CONCURRENT SESSION

10:20 a.m. **Philosophical and Sociological Perspectives on African American Recruitment, Retention, and Employment in the STEM fields**
Campus Center/3rd Floor/Room 3540

Joseph E. Cooper, PhD economics, Harvard University, Alfred Noël, PhD and **Artis Street, PhD**

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CONCURRENT SESSION (*continued from previous column*)

10:20 a.m. **The View From Their Lens: Elevating Black Women's Voices and Lived Experiences in STEM through Photo-Elicitation and Conversation**
Campus Center/2nd Floor/Room 3545

Kerrie Wilkins-Yel, PhD

Black feminist scholars and activists dating back to the Combahee River Collective (1975) have long sounded the clarion call to listen to Black women, believe Black women, and center Black women. To heed this clarion call, this presentation and conversation will elevate the lived experiences of Black women in STEM undergraduate and doctoral programs through self-taken photographs. Specifically, this immersive photo-based experience will illustrate how Black women resisted systemic barriers in STEM and protected their mental health.

11:20 a.m. **Keynote Address: Renee Gosline, PhD, MIT Human-First AI: In Praise of Friction**
Campus Center/3rd Floor/Ballroom

Human decisions are increasingly mediated by technology, and at many firms "AI" has become the go-to tool for reducing friction in everything from content creation to client experiences. In this talk, Dr. Renée Richardson Gosline, MIT faculty member and head of its Human-First AI research group, will discuss how we can create trustworthy AI systems by consciously using friction to enable better choice. She discusses her forthcoming book which lays out how we can audit AI-mediated systems and identify opportunities for beneficial friction to combat AI errors and bias.

12:15 p.m. **Lunch/Networking**
Campus Center/3rd Floor/Ballroom

Presentation from University Catering
*Please note: lunch will be available until 1:30 pm.

12:45 p.m. **Closing Remarks**
Campus Center/3rd Floor/Ballroom

Joseph N. Cooper, PhD, Special Assistant to the Chancellor for Black Life

1:00 p.m. ***Coded Bias* Documentary**
Campus Center/3rd Floor/Ballroom

This documentary investigates the bias in algorithms after M.I.T. Media Lab researcher Joy Buolamwini uncovered flaws in facial recognition technology streaming Netflix.

Streaming on (click here):
https://www.netflix.com/title/81328723

For disability-related accommodations, including dietary accommodations, please visit www.ada.umb.edu and contact event organizers prior to the event.

For feedback/questions about the event: *blacklife@umb.edu*