

# THE VOLUNTEER STAR

*a monthly newsletter from your friends at the*



KANSAS VOLUNTEER COMMISSION  
KANSERVE.ORG

**FEBRUARY IS BLACK HISTORY MONTH!**



## February is Black History Month:

As we celebrate [#BlackHistoryMonth](#) this February, we invite you to reflect on the strength, resilience, and impact Black leaders and changemakers have had on our nation. They have undeniably shaped our past, present, and future, and have paved the way for a more equitable society. At MENTOR, we focus on how mentoring relationships can bolster inclusivity and racial equity by fostering a deep sense of community. Join us in supporting mentoring that creates lasting positive change. Get started with our resources today at: [tinyurl.com/peym5479](https://tinyurl.com/peym5479) [#MentoringAmplifies](#).



## BLACK HISTORY MONTH RESOURCES



**KANSAS VOLUNTEER COMMISSION**  
KANSERVE.ORG

**"OUR CHILDREN MUST NEVER LOSE THEIR ZEAL**

**FOR BUILDING A BETTER WORLD.**

**THEY MUST NOT BE DISCOURAGED FROM ASPIRING**

**TOWARDS GREATNESS, FOR THEY ARE TO BE THE**

**LEADERS OF TOMMOROW."**

**-MARY MCLEOD BETHUNE (1875-1955)**

## Celebrating Black History Month

During Black History Month, we acknowledge and celebrate the achievements, sacrifices, and contributions of Black Americans to our country's diverse cultural heritage.

Today we are spotlighting, Mary McLeod Bethune, the daughter of formerly enslaved parents, who became one of the most significant Black educators, civil rights leaders, and government officials of the twentieth century. The college she founded, Bethune-Cookman College, established educational standards for today's Black colleges, and her role as an advisor to President Franklin D. Roosevelt, provided Black Americans with a powerful advocate in government.

Bethune said of her legacy, "If I have a legacy to leave my people, it is my philosophy of living and serving."

Learn more about the remarkable life and legacy of Dr. Bethune: [here](#)

### Additional Black History Month Resources:

From the National Museum of African American History and Culture: [here](#)

From the National Education Association: [here](#)

## GIVE BACK KANSAS CHALLENGE LAUNCHES

A promotional banner for the Give Back Kansas Challenge. The background features a close-up of several hands stacked together in a gesture of support or prayer. The text is overlaid on the right side of the image. At the top, there is a logo consisting of a yellow sun with green leaves, followed by the text "give back KANSAS challenge" in a mix of white and green fonts. Below this, it says "A CORPORATE VOLUNTEER ENGAGEMENT CHALLENGE WITH PRIZES". The main call to action is "Apply by March 17 - https://bit.ly/Givebackks". Below that, it states "Your company could win a \$1,000 grant from Volunteer Kansas to donate to a nonprofit of your choice!". At the bottom, there are two logos: "volunteerkansas.org" with a green checkmark icon, and the "KANSAS VOLUNTEER COMMISSION KANSERVE.ORG" logo with a white starburst icon.

 give back  
**KANSAS** challenge

A CORPORATE VOLUNTEER ENGAGEMENT CHALLENGE WITH PRIZES

Apply by March 17 -  
<https://bit.ly/Givebackks>

Your company could win a \$1,000 grant  
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 volunteerkansas.org |  KANSAS VOLUNTEER COMMISSION  
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The Give Back Kansas Challenge is an eight-week challenge that engages Kansans in employer-supported volunteering, both during and outside the workday. The Kansas Volunteer Commission and Volunteer Kansas are excited to co-partner in this challenge because much research shows the connection between employer-supported volunteering and improved employee engagement, employee wellness, organizational commitment, job satisfaction, and retention. There is also research connecting employee engagement with increased profitability and productivity.

There is no cost to participate, and the challenge is open to ANY employer in Kansas (for-profit, non-profit, education system, and government).

Sign up by March 17, 2025!

[Learn More Here](#)

[Employers Sign Up Here](#)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

These groups are intended to build and engage a network of volunteer managers and cultivate a volunteerism culture.

### M.O.V.E.

Meets the Third Wednesday of Each Month  
9:00 to 10:00 AM

To learn more, please visit [www.moveks.org](http://www.moveks.org).  
Or reach out via [Facebook](#).

### Peer Association of Volunteer Engagers (P.A.V.E)

Statewide - Virtual

Meets the Fourth Thursday of Each Month  
9:00 to 10:00 AM

To learn more, please email Meg Pearson  
[meg.carrie.pearson@gmail.com](mailto:meg.carrie.pearson@gmail.com)

### Volunteers United: Newton

Meets the Fourth Thursday of Each Month  
12:00 to 1:00 PM

To learn more, please email Dalton Black  
[director@uwhmc.org](mailto:director@uwhmc.org)

NOTE: The above dates, times, and locations are subject to change.

## CONNECT WITH OUR STAFF



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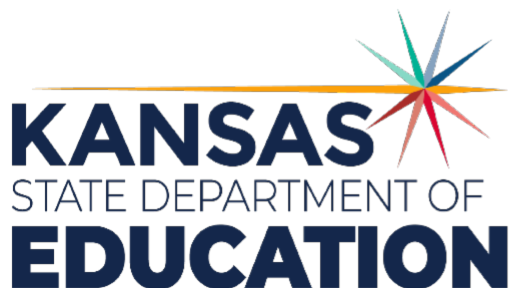
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