

African Americans

Carter G. Woodson (1875-1950), noted Black scholar and historian and son of former slaves, founded the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History in 1915, which was later renamed the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH). He initiated Black History Week, February 12, 1926. For many years the 2nd week of February (chosen so as to coincide with the birthdays of Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln) was celebrated by Black people in the United States. In 1976, as part of the nation's Bicentennial, it was expanded and became established as Black History Month, and is now celebrated all over North America.

As NMFS celebrates our African American community, we do so with the following goals:

- Address the underrepresentation and underutilization of African Americans at all levels of NMFS.
- Create a workplace environment where African American Employees are valued.
- Increase the number of African Americans at all levels of the NMFS workforce.
- Ensure that prospective applicants are aware of NMFS as an employer of choice and of the opportunities here at NMFS.
- Ensure that African American employees are fully developed and prepared to assume positions of greater responsibility.

NOTE: The NOAA Chapter of Blacks in Government, established in 1994, assists NMFS in its efforts to promote opportunities and fairness affecting the rights of Black NOAA employees. For more information please visit <http://www.noaabig.org/>

National Information and Conferences

Blacks in Government National Website

<http://www.bignet.org>

National Conference

<http://www.bignet.org/ntc/>

For more information on this and other Affirmative Employment Programs within NMFS, please contact Natalie Huff, the NMFS Program Manager for EEO and Diversity.

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