

February 1, 2024

Dear Friends,

I hope 2024 is off to a fine start for you and all those you love. I am writing today to inform you that The University of Scranton has once again planned a series of events and activities for Black History Month that call for celebration, reflection, learning and action.

As we pause to examine the many facets of Black lives, I encourage you to take a few minutes to view the oral histories of several individuals from the local Black community. These histories were collected as part of the “Scranton’s Story; Our Nation’s Story” initiative that was supported by a National Endowment for the Humanities grant and involved partnerships with multiple community organizations.

One of the oral histories posted is of Sherman Wooden, who lives in Susquehanna County and served for nearly 20 years at the University in student activities and as our Director of Multicultural Affairs, building those efforts on our campus.

“Scranton is made up of many individuals...We made a conscientious effort to make sure across the board, treat everybody how you wanted to be treated...there's no sense being here on earth if you're not here to make contributions to others, to improve the plight of those around you.” Sherman Wooden, Scranton’s Story.

A Screening and Talk-Back: “Black Voices: Scranton Stories,” set for 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 21, is among the Black History Month events planned in February. I would encourage you to take advantage of as many of these activities in you can.

Lastly, I want to mention the University’s ongoing effort to prioritize and advance the pursuit of inclusivity, including our Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Strategic Plan, which was launched in the spring of 2022. Our progress in implementing our plan can be found in the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Plan- Progress webpage.

Thank you for your attention to this important information.

Yours faithfully,

Joseph G. Marina, S.J.
President

