



BLACK HISTORY
SPEAKER SERIES



SYRACUSE CITY SCHOOL
DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT



SUPERINTENDENT
PAMELA ODOM

Pamela J. Odom is the Superintendent of Syracuse City Schools, with over 30 years of dedicated service. A Nottingham high alumna, she has held leadership roles focused on equity, student success, and community engagement. Her goal is to ensure every student in Syracuse can succeed.

FEB 13
1:00 PM

BLACK
HISTORY
Month

SPEAKER SERIES
FEBRUARY 2-27, 2026

BLACK HISTORY IS OUR HISTORY, AND OUR HISTORY IS POWERFUL HISTORY!

MAYOR OF SYRACUSE, NEW
YORK



MAYOR SHARON OWENS

Sharon F. Owens is the 55th Mayor of Syracuse, elected in 2025. She is the city's first African American and second female mayor. An SU alum and community leader, she focuses on revitalizing Syracuse through investment and partnerships.

FEB 9
12:30 PM

NOTTINGHAM
HIGH
SCHOOL



FEB 2
1:2:00 PM

AHMEED TURNER

Ahmeed Turner, Vice President of Scholarships & Student Support and Executive Director of Say Yes Syracuse at the Central New York Community Foundation., Advocate for youth, education, and community strength.



FEB 4
12:00 PM

KRISTIN THOMPSON HENRY

Kristin Thompson-Henry, Community Impact Officer at Empower Federal Credit Union, is a proud Syracuse City School District graduate and community leader dedicated to financial literacy and empowerment.



FEB 5
12:00 PM

HONORABLE LINDA R. ERVIN

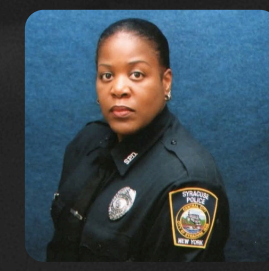
Linda R. Ervin, retired Onondaga County Legislator, past president of Interfaith Works, CNY Rotary Area Representative, Chair of the Dewitt Democratic Committee, and Chair of the Steward Board at Hopps Memorial CME Church



FEB 6
1:00 PM

DEPUTY CHIEF
MONTANETTE ROCKER

Montanette Rocker, a Syracuse leader, is Deputy Chief Diversity Officer for Onondaga County and former Director of Human Rights,. She also serves on the board of Interfaith Works Syracuse.



FEB 10,
10:00 AM

CASSANDRA JONES-INGRAM

Cassandra Jones-Ingram was Syracuse's first African American woman police officer, hired in 1981. She served nearly 21 years as Officer Friendly. A street, "Cassandra Jones-Ingram Drive," was named in her honor.



FEB 11
9:00 AM

JALEEL CAMPBELL

Jaleel Campbell is a nationally recognized New York-based multimedia artist, educator, and community organizer. His work includes digital illustration, doll-making, fiber art, curating, and performance.



FEB 12
11:30 AM

RASHEEDA CALDWELL,

Rasheeda Caldwell, City Councilor At-Large, founder of Let me Be Great #44, and Coordinator for Youth & Family Services at the Allyn Family Foundation.



FEB 23
10:00 AM

DR. MARY NELSON

Mary Nelson, Syracuse-based humanitarian and CEO of the Mary Nelson Youth Center, is known for supporting at-risk youth and empowering families. She received national recognition for her work in reducing violence.



FEB 24
11:00 AM

AMIR GETHERS

Amir Gethers is a nationally recognized New York-based assistant director at a family-owned funeral service and a proud product of the Syracuse City School District. In 2021, he made history as the youngest Black man elected to the Syracuse Common Council .



FEB 26
12:00 PM

KRIS CUNNINGHAM

Kris Cunningham, CEO/Owner of KC Solutions, a design and renovation company, and a CTE teacher at ED Smith School (SCSD), inspiring students and community through his work.



FEB 27
12:00 PM

HASSINA ADAMS

Hassina Adams, Onondaga County Legislature clerk, is now a paralegal, vice-president of the New Americans Forum, and on the board of InterFaith Works. A Ugandan refugee, she shares her inspiring story.

Students

Sign
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