

FEBRUARY IS: BLACK HISTORY MONTH

2016 Theme:
Hallowed Grounds: Sites of African American Memories

In 1926, Dr. Carter G. Woodson known as the Father of Black History initiated the annual February observance of Negro History Week. He chose February because of Abraham Lincoln's birthday on February 12 and Frederick Douglass' accepted birthday of February 14. In 1976, as part of the United States Bicentennial, the informal expansion of Negro History Week to Black History Month was officially recognized by the U.S. government.

SPOTLIGHT: Dr. LaToya Myles

Lead Research Physical Scientist, NOAA/OAR/Air Resources Laboratory (ARL)



LaToya Myles. Photo credit: D.L. Senn

Dr. Myles is the lead research physical scientist with the ARL Atmospheric Turbulence and Diffusion Division in Oak Ridge, TN. She conducts atmospheric chemistry measurement studies in coastal and agricultural ecosystems to investigate the exchange of reactive nitrogen compounds between the air and Earth's surface. She has published several articles in peer-reviewed journals and served on interdisciplinary review panels and science committees. In addition to her research, she is engaged in numerous efforts to promote STEM education and career exploration for the next generation of scientists. The Mississippi native is a magna cum laude graduate of Alcorn State University with a B.S. in chemistry and a B.S. in biology. She received fellowships from the NOAA Graduate Sciences Program and the U.S. EPA Science to Achieve Results Program while earning her Ph.D. in environmental sciences from Florida A&M University (FAMU). Her graduate research, which focused on atmospheric ammonia deposition in coastal regions, was also aligned with the NOAA Environmental Cooperative Science Center at FAMU. Her professional and philanthropic efforts have been recognized with Knoxville, TN's '40 under 40' Award and an

outstanding alumna recognition from Alcorn State. She is a member of the American Geophysical Union, Sigma Xi, Earth Science Women's Network, and Federally Employed Women.