



DJJ Staff Celebrate Black History Month

On Wednesday, February 28th, the Department of Juvenile Justice hosted a celebration at the Manhattan campus of St. John's University to culminate Black History Month.

The event's Keynote Speaker was Darcel Dillard-Suite, M.S., who is the Co-Founder and Chief Operating Officer of Full Circle Health. Ms. Dillard-Suite's remarks highlighted the need to provide quality mental health care services, including those that are culturally competent to benefit people of color.

The event's invocation was provided by Imam Umar Abdul-Jalil of the City's Correction Department.

The Department's Equal Employment Opportunity Officer Tonia Haynes noted, "While DJJ youth enjoyed events commemorating the importance of Black History Month, it is equally important to do so with staff to continue to promote a working environment that is accepting of everyone."

Throughout the month, youth in the Department's care celebrated the significance of the occasion in events spearheaded by staff.

Carter G. Woodson first established Black History Month in 1926 as a week-long observance. Today it is celebrated as a month-long observance every February in the United States and Canada and in October in the United Kingdom.

