



**For Immediate Release**  
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***The Legacy of the Black Medical  
Schools and Departments in the United States  
Exhibit & Special Presentation***  
**Opens at Beck Cultural Exchange Center – 1 Day Only**

Knoxville, Tenn. – December 1, 2018 – Beck Cultural Exchange Center presents in partnership with Ross University School of Medicine a special presentation and exhibition, *The Legacy of the Black Medical Schools and Departments in the United States*, opening for one day only December 1, 2018 at 3:00pm. The exhibition, curated by Anita Moncrease, M.D., M.P.H., Associate Professor, Wayne State University School of Medicine, tells the unique and untold story of the “Legacy of the Black Medical Schools and Departments in the United States” that does not begin in the United States; it begins in Africa over 3000 years ago. Stories of the 19 Black Medical Schools and Departments are presented in this exhibit. Beginning with the first, Howard University founded in 1868 and culminating with the newest one Morehouse School of Medicine in 1975. Four of the 19 Black medical schools and departments in the United States are open today. Two of the schools that are closed were located in Knoxville, the Knoxville College Medical School (1895 -1900) and Knoxville Medical College (1900-1910).

**This exhibit is important because:**

1. It tells the forgotten stories of the 19 Black medical schools and departments that existed at one time in the United States.
2. It describes the important roles Black medical schools played in the development and training of the physician workforce and why these schools are still needed today.
3. It empowers people of color (particularly young people) that they can achieve their goals regardless of the circumstances they may have been faced with if they perseverer, have faith, and don't let things they can't control determine what they can accomplish.

**This exhibit is unique because:**

1. It is the only place where this collection of hidden, stolen and forgotten histories is displayed in one exhibit.
2. It contains photos and information never before presented by the handful of historians who are experts on the Black medical schools and departments. For example, the Medico-Chirurgical and Theological College of Christ's Institution (Church) or why the Black medical schools open where and when they did.

3. It is supplemented with a “student” book with a brief description of the Black Medical Schools and Departments so that this history can be taken home and kept alive. Students that visit the exhibit are given complementary copies of the book.
4. It introduces the concept of the 4 “F’s” (lack of finances, faculty, facilities, and the Flexner Report) as lesson learned for success and failure of Black and white medical schools and the additional pressures of racial discrimination and the role it played in closing almost all of the Black medical schools in this country.

Another **unique feature** of this exhibit is it explains **why**:

Why these schools were needed,  
Why they opened where they did,  
Why almost all of them failed (the 4 F’s), and  
Why only two survived.

These lessons can be applied today as we strive to: teach our children to be proud of their heritage, increase diversity in the health care workforce, decrease health care disparities and improve health outcomes for the most vulnerable members of our populations.

#### **About the Beck Cultural Exchange Center:**

Beck was established in 1975 as a result of Knoxville’s Urban Renewal projects that began in 1959 under Title I of the Housing Act of 1949. The projects relocated and displaced many black families and businesses. Much of the heritage of the black community was erased from the map. Except for one or two structures in the city and the historic buildings at Knoxville College, edifices that once stood as monuments to the struggles of early leaders no longer exist. Absent of the establishment of Beck, these places and the people may never have existed.

*Beck is named in honor of James Garfield (1881-1969) and Ethel Benson (1897-1970) Beck, two of the most glamorous and influential members of the black community in Knoxville during the period of the 1920s-1960s.*

#### **MISSION**

To be the place where African American history and culture are preserved, nurtured, taught, & continued.

#### **VISION**

To be the desired place that people go to learn, discover and experience the rich legacy of African Americans inside a vibrant Cultural Corridor.

#### **CREATORS BIO’S:**

**Anita Moncrease, M.D., M.P.H.** is president of Moncrease & Associates, LLC, Associate Professor of Pediatrics at Wayne State University School of Medicine, and Historian of the Historical Hartford Memorial Baptist Church in Detroit. Dr. Moncrease interest in Black studies, medicine, and history has inspired her to learn about the histories of the Black medical schools in the United States and share the journey and the experience with her co-creators: her nephew, Rashard Ballinger, grandnephew, Demetrius Granberry, and niece Brittani Moncrease.

**Rev. Don Tynes, M.D., F.A.C.P.** practices Internal Medicine and Pediatrics in Benton Harbor, MI. He is the founder of the Reach Out to Youth Program at Wayne State University of School of Medicine and the Limb Preservation at the Save the Leg Program at the Detroit Medical Center (DMC)-Detroit Receiving Hospital. Dr. Tynes has study Kemetology and Egyptology extensively and is recognized as an expert in both fields. He has one of the most private collections extensive collections of ancient medical history in America.

**Rashard Ballinger** is a sophomore at Morehouse College. At the time Rashard did the field research for this project he was about to enter his senior year at Renaissance High School in Detroit, MI. Rashard's incite and un-jaundice eye lead the field research experience to look more closely at the "Flexner Report" which changed medical education in America and lead to five of the seven Black medical schools that were open in the U.S. in 1910 to be closed.

**Demetrius Granberry** is in the 9<sup>th</sup> grade at Southfield High School. At the time Demetrius did the field research for this project he was 11 years old. Demetrius was born in Nashville, TN and has spent many hours dissecting the history of Meharry Medical College in Nashville, TN and has an interesting insight into the history of Meharry Medical School that was reviled through his extraordinary journey.

**Brittani Moncrease, M.A.** is a Communications and Political Science graduate of Howard University. She is currently a television producer and investigative reporter for CBS. Brittani has also studied in Egypt. Her investigation of the Medico-Chirurgical and Theological College of Christ's Institution in Baltimore, MD has led to the discovery that the school is still standing today as a church with a pastor who wants to tell their story. Brittani also researched and reported the story behind the discovery of 3000 African Americans graves in Philadelphia.

**Dedra Seay-Scatliffe, M.S.** is the Administrative Assistance in the Office of Diversity and Inclusion at WSUSOM. Ms. Seay-Scatliffe has worked in this office for 30 years supporting the underrepresented minority students as they matriculate through WSUSOM. Assisted with the initial research in identifying the schools for the field research and establishing field contacts.

**Andre Lee, MHA., DPA** is the founder of the Leeway Health Education Foundation and the creator of several Black historical exhibits including "Black Health Care Legends: Who was first". He has also authored books including "Black Medical History Trivia." He has done extensive research in the history of Blacks, medicine and the Civil War.

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