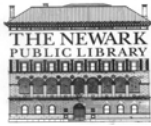


THE NEWARK PUBLIC LIBRARY
5 WASHINGTON STREET, NEWARK, NEW JERSEY 07102



PRESS RELEASE

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Newark Library's Black History Program Features Noted Educator

The Newark Public Library's Black History month program featuring Dr. Antoinette Ellis-Williams of New Jersey City University (NJCU) will be held Wednesday, March 16 at 6 p.m. at the Main Library, 5 Washington Street, Newark. The program was originally scheduled for last month, but was cancelled due to inclement weather.

An Associate Professor of Women's and Gender Studies, Dr. Ellis-Williams will speak about Dr. Lee Hagan for whom the NJCU's Africana Studies Center is named. She is also director of the Center.

Dr. Ellis-Williams is the founder and director of the statewide Female Leadership Development Institute and Research Center. She holds a bachelor of arts degree in sociology from Seton Hall University, a master's of public administration from the University of Pittsburgh, Graduate School of Public and International Affairs, and a Ph.D. from Cornell University, School of Human Ecology.

The late Dr. Hagan, a committed scholar activist devoted to the teaching and research of African and African-American History, served NJCU (Jersey City State College at that time) for 17 years as a professor of history, coordinator for the African/Afro-American Studies Program, founding member of the [Black Administrators, Alumni, Faculty, Student and Staff Organization \(BAAFSSO\)](#), and advisor to several student organizations. He inspired many young people and adults to pursue a higher education that would include an Afrocentric awareness and a commitment to perform meaningful community service. Dr. Hagan passed away in 1986.

The Newark Public Library is commemorating its 2011 observance of Black History with two exhibits that celebrate the exuberance, grace and innovation of black dance, from its origins in African villages to its incorporation into mass culture and Broadway musicals. *We Are a Dancing People: The History of Black Dance From Then Until Now* and the accompanying photographic display, *The Art of Dance*, are on view at the Main Library through March 23.

Funding for the Library's Black History Month activities and exhibits has been provided by a generous grant from the PNC Foundation.

All programs are free and open to the public. For more information or to arrange a tour of the exhibits, please call (973) 733-5411. In case of inclement weather, please call (973) 733-7800 to determine whether the Library is open.