

RESOLUTION

Recognizing the Thirtieth Anniversary of the Women and Gender Studies Program at Eastern Michigan University

WHEREAS, Women's Studies as an academic discipline has built on a rich history of women's activism, on centuries of women's writing and creative activity, and on rich and varied traditions of thought about what it means to be a woman, and continues to record, analyze, and support women in the immediate community and around the globe;

WHEREAS, Eastern Michigan University's Women's Studies Program operated initially through the dedicated volunteer efforts of students, faculty, and staff; has offered a minor since 1975, a Master's degree since 1982, an undergraduate major degree since 1997; and, in recognition of the importance of studying men's lives and masculinity, changed its name to Women's and Gender Studies in 2005;

WHEREAS, the Women and Gender Studies Program is celebrating its 30th anniversary as an exemplary multi-disciplinary program with 87 currently active Faculty and Staff Affiliates and Associates representing all five Colleges, thereby making it the first women's studies program in the State of Michigan, one of the oldest such programs in the country, and the only to offer a Master's degree in Women's and Gender Studies in Michigan;

WHEREAS, the Program works with faculty, staff and students as well as community organizations to organize an extensive array of programming, including nationally-prominent speakers for Women's History Month each March;

WHEREAS, Women and Gender Studies has continuously educated talented cohorts of students who have exemplified leadership while at Eastern Michigan University and in professional venues thereafter;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Eastern Michigan University Board of Regents proudly salutes the Women and Gender Studies Program for thirty years of service to students, dutiful stewardship over the discipline, and exemplary leadership in the intellectual life and direction of the University.

RESOLUTION

Recognizing the Thirtieth Anniversary of African American Studies at Eastern Michigan University

WHEREAS, the study of persons of African descent in the United States is a part of African American intellectual and cultural tradition, and the modern civil rights movement of the mid-twentieth century heightened the nation's awareness of the need to incorporate that tradition more fully into its cultural, educational and academic institutions;

WHEREAS, in 1969, a collective voice of students, faculty, staff and community residents called for the creation of a Black Studies Program, followed over the next several years by the creation of course offerings, ultimately leading to the Afro-American Studies Program as a free-standing academic unit in 1975 and culminating in departmental status in 1990-91;

WHEREAS, Eastern Michigan University became the first university in the state to have a department devoted to the study of African Americans, and became the first institution to offer a bachelor's degree in the field;

WHEREAS, African American Studies has become an integral component of the University's curricula and co-curricular program, and has been a source of expertise for issues of inclusion, diversity, community engagement and excellence in higher education;

WHEREAS, African American Studies has continuously educated talented cohorts of students who have exemplified leadership while at Eastern Michigan University and in professional venues thereafter;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Eastern Michigan University Board of Regents proudly salutes the Department of African American Studies for thirty years of service to students, dutiful stewardship over the discipline, and exemplary leadership in the intellectual life and direction of the University.