



CENTER FOR BLACK STUDIES RESEARCH

APRIL 2026

MONTHLY
NEWSLETTER

cbsr.ucsb.edu

FROM OUR DIRECTOR

Dear CBSR Community, Affiliates, and Supporters,



Warm greetings, and happy April. As we enter the heart of the spring season, we are reminded of the importance of community, reflection, and continued progress. At the Center for Black Studies Research, we remain deeply committed to advancing scholarship, fostering dialogue, and supporting the work that connects our academic mission to the broader community we proudly serve.

We would like to take this opportunity to recognize several members of our dedicated staff whose efforts sustain and strengthen our daily operations. Ian, Marcy, Karla, and Raphaella have each contributed significantly through their professionalism, care, and steadfast commitment. Their work ensures that CBSR continues to function with excellence, and we are grateful for their ongoing support.

We are also pleased to highlight the contributions of our postdoctoral scholars, Drs. Brande Otis and Bladimir Carabali, whose research and engagement enrich the intellectual life of the CBSR. We extend a special congratulations to Brande, who will be presenting at the American Educational Research Association (AERA) Annual Meeting this month. This achievement reflects both the quality and significance of her work, and we are proud to see CBSR represented on such an important national stage.

In addition, we are excited to share that the edited volume developed from CBSR's symposium on African American Education: Long Road to Parity in US has been formally submitted and is currently under review. This collaborative project reflects the depth of scholarship cultivated through our programming and partnerships, and we look forward to sharing more updates soon.

April also brings a few meaningful observances that resonate across our diverse community. This includes the conclusion of Ramadan, as well as the celebrations of Passover and Easter. Each of these occasions offers time for reflection, renewal, and connection, and we honor the many traditions represented within our extended CBSR community.

We thank you, our affiliates, partners, and supporters, for your continued engagement and belief in the mission of the Center for Black Studies Research. Your support makes our work possible and impactful. We look forward to continuing this important journey together.

With appreciation and best wishes for the season,

Dr. Sharon Tettegah
Center for Black Studies Research
University of California, Santa Barbara

POSTDOC FELLOW, BRANDE OTIS



Dr. Brande Otis is organizing, facilitating, and presenting a symposium at the American Educational Research Association (AERA) 2026 Conference in Los Angeles.

The symposium, titled “It Was Never Just About the Grant: The Befores, Durings, and Afters of Anti-DEI Grant Cancellation,” brings together a panel of Black women scholars to reflect on their work before, during, and after the abrupt cancellation of their grants in spring 2025. Panelists discuss projects centered on Black communities in Evanston, Illinois, as well as the strategies Black women scholars have employed to sustain liberation- and justice-oriented work in the aftermath of grant loss.

In addition, Dr. Otis is advancing two publications: one examining Black community strategies and collective political action toward educational sovereignty in Evanston, Illinois, and another exploring how conditions of constraint and possibility shape the future orientations of Black high school students in South Central Los Angeles.

Lastly, we are pleased to invite the CBSR community to an event on Tuesday May 12th, where Dr. Otis will be hosting an event open to students, staff, and the community. –Stay tuned for more information!

FROM OUR STUDENT ASSISTANT



Ian has declared his degree candidacy to graduate this June from the College of Creative Studies!

This month, he will be attending multiple professional events. Society for Advancing Native Americans and Chicanos in STEM (SACNAS) CareerCon virtual event connects STEM professionals with students and graduates at all levels to demystify government and industry workplaces and applications.

Following that event, Ian has a travel scholarship to attend the Western Section meeting for the American Society of Plant Biologists, taking place in the Bay Area. He intends to connect with future employers, advisors, or collaborators in his field of interest.

APRIL OBSERVANCES

Click each event below to learn more!

[Earth Month \(UCSB\)](#)

[Passover](#)

[Easter 04/05](#)

[Earth Day 04/22](#)

