



MARCH 2026

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## FROM OUR DIRECTOR

Dear CBSR Community,

As we transition into March, we do so with resolve, reflection, and gratitude. This moment in the academic year invites growth in ideas and in community. At the same time, we acknowledge the real challenges before us and the courage it takes to continue forward in mission-driven work.



### Navigating Change with Purpose

Like many units in higher education, the Center for Black Studies Research is operating in a time of reduced resources. Our budget has been significantly constrained, requiring adjustments across our programs and operations. We are also navigating a moment of staffing transition. Tracey Goss is currently on FMLA and plans to retire soon. We honor Tracey's years of service and extend heartfelt best wishes as she prepares for this next chapter.

Amid these changes, we are deeply grateful to the CBSR team members who are sustaining our work with strength and care.

### Staff Appreciation

Raphaella Nau has stepped into expanded administrative responsibilities with skill, dedication, and grace. Marselina Ortiz continues to provide steadfast support and leadership. Karla Partida remains committed to the operational work that keeps CBSR moving forward. Ian Rodriguez is serving as an assistant with remarkable steadiness and commitment. His reliable and thoughtful contributions during this period are truly commendable. We thank each of them for their adaptability, excellence, and tireless efforts during this period of transition.

### Advisory Board Engagement

Last Friday, we held our recent Advisory Board meeting, and we are pleased to share that it was both productive and affirming. The discussion reflected thoughtful engagement, strategic insight, and a shared commitment to sustaining the mission of CBSR during this period of fiscal constraint. We are grateful for the guidance, encouragement, and continued partnership of our advisory members. Their leadership strengthens our direction and reinforces the importance of our work.

## Research and Scholarship in Motion

Despite budget challenges, the intellectual life of the Center remains vibrant and productive. We are proud to highlight ongoing research, publications, and scholarly presentations that underscore the strength of our community.

Bladimir Carabali, working with faculty affiliate Jaime Alves in Black Studies, recently published a significant paper. This work represents a thoughtful and rigorous contribution to the field, and we congratulate Bladimir on this important accomplishment.

Brande Otis, collaborating with faculty affiliate AJ Rice in Political Science, continues to advance exciting research with clarity and purpose. We thank Brande for her sustained scholarly engagement and collaborative spirit.

These achievements reflect not only individual excellence but also the collective commitment that defines CBSR.

## Featured Faculty News

Dr. Tettegah, in collaboration with postdoc Brande Otis and former postdocs Charles Terry and Ebenezer Larnyo, submitted a comprehensive new manuscript for peer review. The study, titled "The Long Road to Parity: African American Education in the United States," utilizes a rigorous meta-analysis to provide a deep dive into the historical and systemic journey toward educational equity. By synthesizing existing research, this work offers a critical perspective on the persistent challenges and milestones in the pursuit of parity for African American students.

Building on the momentum of our prior work and recent symposium, a new edited volume is also under review. Co-edited by Dr. Tettegah and Dr. Sylvia James, the book focuses on African American Pedagogy and features insightful contributions from a curated selection of symposium authors. This collection aims to extend the critical dialogues sparked during the event into a definitive resource for the field.

Dr. Tettegah has been invited to serve as a Distinguished Speaker at the Western Psychological Association conference in April 2025. Her presentation introduces an innovative new framework examining the intersection of artificial intelligence, cognition, and human development. This invitation reflects the growing national recognition of her scholarship and leadership in emerging areas of research.

In addition, Dr. Tettegah was recently recognized as an Influential Woman by Influential Women. This honor celebrates her visionary leadership, scholarly impact, and transformative contributions to the academy and broader community.

## March Observances and Community Recognition

During March, we recognize Women's History Month, Social Work Month, Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month, and Irish American Heritage Month. In California, we also observe César Chávez Day, which reminds us of the enduring power of advocacy, labor justice, and collective action.

## In Gratitude

During change and constraint, the work of CBSR continues, sustained by research excellence, community care, and an enduring belief in the importance of Black Studies scholarship.

Each member of our community, including staff, faculty, postdoctoral fellows, students, and supporters, contributes to the resilience and vibrancy of this Center.

We remain grateful for your partnership, commitment, and presence as we continue to move forward together with purpose and hope.

With deep appreciation,  
Sharon Tettegah, Director,  
Center for Black Studies Research

## ADVISORY COMMITTEE, EILEEN BORIS



Eileen Boris, Hull Professor and Distinguished Professor of Feminist Studies and affiliate of History, Black Studies, and Global Studies, became President of the Labor and Working-Class History Association (LAWCHA) this month.

She is co-authoring a book on the gray economy of home care based on a survey with 5,000 respondents and 100 interviews with sociologists Ruth Milkman (CUNY Graduate Center) and Heidi Gottfried (Wayne State) funded by a generous grant from the Ford Foundation and with support from a UCSB Senate and other smaller awards. She also is working on a microhistory, “Freeing Dora: The 1947 Slavery Case that Fractured a Family and Shocked the Nation.”

She has in press a co-edited collection with Heidi Gottfried and Nadja Araujo Guimarães, *Caring Beyond Borders: Assessing Home Care Policies and Workers’ Rights in Europe and the Americas* (De Gruyter/Brill, 2026).

## ADVISORY COMMITTEE, STACEY DOAN



Dr. Doan is working on Project STRIVE with collaborators from UCLA, Fuller Theological Seminary and Stanford. One of the goals of the project is to reduce the health cost of resilience among high achieving, disadvantaged youth.

## POSTDOC FELLOW, BLADIMIR HINESTROZA



Bladimir recently published in *global-e journal*, an article titled “Organized Abandonment in the Racialized City: Buenaventura, Colombia”

The article explains how Buenaventura, a majority Afro-Colombian city in Colombia, faces “organized abandonment,” meaning long-term neglect by the state despite its importance as a major port. The article argues that economic development benefits outside interests, while racialized communities are systematically excluded and marginalized.

[Click here to read Bladimir's article](#)

## POSTDOC FELLOW, BRANDE OTIS



Brande Otis is continuing to write and support undergraduate research.

She is currently supporting three undergraduate students in various qualitative research projects, and her office is open to students interested in learning about qualitative research.

## FROM OUR STUDENT ASSISTANT



Ian is finishing coursework for this winter quarter while prepping for the final stretch of his undergraduate degree this spring.

During the first week of March, he visited UC Riverside to participate in a graduate program recruitment event as he considers the next steps in career. Additionally, he is collaborating with other senior MARC and UC LEADS Scholars to plan a leadership and undergraduate community event for the Spring 2026 Quarter.

## MARCH RECOGNITIONS

Click each event below to learn more!

[Women's History Month](#)

[Social Work Month](#)

[Developmental Disabilities](#)

[Irish History Month](#)

[Cesar Chavez Day 03/31](#)

[Awareness Month](#)

