

## ***PRESS RELEASE***

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### **OIC OF WASHINGTON & DAVIS HIGH SCHOOL TEAM UP TO CELEBRATE BLACK HISTORY MONTH**

**Yakima, WA**

OIC of Washington and A.C. Davis High School are happy to announce its Annual Black History Month Celebration during the week of February 21 at Davis High School, 212 South Sixth Avenue in Yakima.

An exhibit Tuesday, February 21 through Friday, February 24<sup>th</sup> from 10am to 2:30pm for students, 3:00pm to 5:00pm for the general public, will be on display at the Davis High School KIVA. There will also be a Soul Food Luncheon on Friday, February 24<sup>th</sup> from Noon to 1:30pm at the OIC of Washington Gymnasium, 1001 S. 9<sup>th</sup> Ave. **ALL EVENTS ARE FREE.**

The Exhibit will feature art and artifacts that depict African American's contributions to America from the subjugation of slavery through today including musical contributions in film, the arts, sports, business, inventions and more. "It is our hope that many, **including Yakima County's school students**, will come to observe, study and reflect on the richness of these activities that depict African American Life and History," stated Steve Mitchell, CEO of OIC. "The opportunity to team up with Principal Ryan McDaniel and Alternative Education Teacher Chris Shead of Davis High School, and the chance to reach students about the importance of African American contributions to America in an educational setting was an opportunity we could not pass up."

This commemoration continues the vision of Dr. Carter G. Woodson, known as the "Father of Black History," in his quest for accurate historic documentation of the tremendous impact of African Americans amidst American History. Dr. Carter, the son of former slaves, understood how important gaining an education that included one's own contributions is when striving to secure and make the most of one's right to freedom and pride. In honor of the work that Dr. Woodson did to promote the study of African American History, an ornament of Woodson hangs on the White House's Christmas tree each year.

**For more information or to schedule a group tour of the public exhibit,** contact Deidre Dennis at 454-7616 or Chris Shead at 573-2762.