

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

STUDENT ESSAY CONTEST

Unsung American Heroes

This past year has presented many challenges. A global pandemic has created a new appreciation for unsung heroes as we learn what it truly means to be an "essential worker." History is full of unsung heroes from the Black community. For this year's Black History Month (BHM) essay contest, we ask that you explore these challenges with a focus on the theme of "Unsung American Heroes." You may write solely about an unsung hero from Black history or write about someone in the community and how they embody the ideals of a hero from Black history.

WHO: Any Edison State Community College Student

WHAT: Black History Month Essay Contest

The essay should:

- Be 350-500 words
- Center on the theme of "Unsung American Heroes"
- Focus on narrative (storytelling) and reflection rather than exposition (explanation or definition)
- Include citations for any information from sources

DEADLINE: February 1, 2021 at midnight

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES:

- The essay must be formatted as a Word document
- The essay should be 350-500 words
- The essay title should include the theme of "American Unsung Heroes")
- Each submission must contain the following at the top of the essay:
 - Name
 - Phone Number
 - Address
 - Name of Instructor who encouraged you to submit (if applicable)
- Email to Carl DeSantis at cdesantis@edisonohio.edu
 - You must submit via your Edison State email address
 - The subject line must include the theme of "Unsung American Heroes"



NOTES:

- Essays may be used for Edison State publicity
- Essays will be submitted by the contest coordinator, in conjunction with the Blackboard administrator, to Turnitin, a plagiarism checker
 - No more of than 15% of the essay should be quoted or non-original work
 - Any quotes or non-original work must be cited
- Winners will be invited to participate in the February 22, 2021, BHM celebration
- Winners will be determined by a faculty panel

PRIZES:

- Cash prizes will be awarded to the top three essays
 - 1st Place: \$100
 - 2nd Place: \$75
 - 3rd Place: \$50
- Prizes will be awarded at the February 22, 2021, BHM celebration

TOPIC SUGGESTIONS:

Including, but not limited to:

- First responders
- Essential workers
- Organizations providing aid during the pandemic
- Military
- Government leaders at all levels, past and present
- Teachers
- Family members dedicated to the community
- Counselors, advisors, religious leaders
- Non-profit staff, volunteers, and board members
- Athletes or celebrities focused on the community or good works
- Historical figures
- Philanthropists
- Innovators
- Other leaders

The Black History Month essay contest is sponsored by the Diversity Committee at Edison State Community College. Questions may be directed to Carl DeSantis, contest coordinator, at cdesantis@edisonohio.edu.