



BLACK HISTORY MONTH PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS the 2021 theme for Black History Month is *The Black Family: Representation, Identity, and Diversity*, focusing on the ways in which Black families were separated from their birthplaces through the atrocities of slavery, and the effects this has had despite Jim Crow Laws, Sunset Laws, and white nationalism; and

WHEREAS in 1926, Carter G. Woodson and Minister Jesse E. Moorland laid the foundation for Black History Month because the achievements of Black Americans were all but erased from national history and underrepresented in important policy decisions; and

WHEREAS in 1976, President Gerald Ford made Black History Month a national observance; and the second week of February coincides with the birthdays of Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass; and the event inspired schools and communities nationwide to organize local celebrations, establish history clubs, and host performances and lectures; and

WHEREAS during Black History Month, we celebrate the many achievements and contributions made by Black Americans to our economic, cultural, spiritual, and political development and honor the memory of the millions of enslaved Africans who died during the Transatlantic Slave Trade; and

WHEREAS while the observance of Black History Month calls our community's attention to the continued need to battle racism and to build a society that lives up to its democratic ideals; and

WHEREAS this year's celebrations and recognition of Black History Month are especially significant as we reflect on the historically monumental inauguration of our nation's first African American vice president, Kamala Harris, reminding students of their capabilities and potentials; and

WHEREAS the Salem-Keizer School District recognizes that high-quality education can create social and economic uplift where *all students graduate and are prepared for a successful life*;

NOW, THEREFORE, the Salem-Keizer School District Board of Directors proclaims February 2021 to be **BLACK HISTORY MONTH** and urges our communities to join in making this a period of rededication to the principles of remembrance, justice, and equity for all people.

Satya Chandragiri, Chairperson, Board of Directors
Salem-Keizer Public Schools

February 9, 2021

Date