



IOWA'S AFRICAN AMERICAN FESTIVAL



TO: Iowa Secondary School Educators, Counselors, Diversity Coordinators, Administrators and Youth Organizations
FROM: Betty C. Andrews, Executive Director, *I'll Make Me a World in Iowa*
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DATE: January 3, 2025

RE: Invitation to I'll Make Me a World in Iowa Education Day on Friday February 7, 2025

Location: Horizon Events Center 2100 NW 100th Street, Clive, IA (Des Moines)

Activities: Black History Game Show, STEM Festival, Biz Pitch Competition, Cultural Workshops, College Fair, & More!

I'll Make Me a World in Iowa (Iowa's African American Festival) is pleased to offer its Education Day programming to middle and high school students with the important goal of promoting education, awareness and preservation around African American history in our state. Now in our 27th year, we invite you and your students to join us once again for a day of inspiration, education, and celebration—because history comes alive at Education Day!

About Education Day: Attended each year by hundreds of students from across Iowa, IMMAWII Education Day includes a day-long series of workshops and learning activities for students. Secondary schools and youth organizations across the state of Iowa will participate in the Education Day activities on Friday, February 7, 2025, starting at 9:00 a.m. and ending at 2:00 p.m. Educators and Youth Organizations Leaders are encouraged to bring their students to be a part of this historic learning experience.

Who Should Attend: Education Day is a must for educators and organizational leaders looking to enrich their students' experiences in social studies, world history, cultures, or government. It's also perfect for extracurricular groups like debate teams, social studies clubs, or diversity organizations. **Education Day is for ALL students regardless of heritage, grade point average, or special needs.**

What To Expect: On **Friday, February 7, 2025**, from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., join schools and youth organizations from across Iowa at this one-of-a-kind celebration featuring:

- **Black History Game Show:** A festival favorite! Teams of 6–10 students in grades 6–12 compete for prizes (\$300 for 1st place, \$150 for 2nd place) in middle and high school divisions. Cheer for your school and celebrate academic success! Our new 2025 study guide will be provided upon registration.
- **Workshops, Art, STEM Fest & College & Resource Fair:** Dive into hands-on learning with art, history and dance workshops, cultural displays, and STEM activities. Connect with colleges and explore paths to higher education.
- **Biz Pitch Competition:** Do your students have a great business idea? This is your chance to pitch it to industry leaders for a chance to win \$250 to invest in their business and a vendor booth to promote your business at the festival.
- **Commemorative Poster:** Explore our annual Black History Poster, a tribute to Iowa's rich African American legacy.
- **More:** This jam-packed day will also include historical exhibits, performances, group activities, prizes, swag bags and more.

Why Attend: Education Day isn't just a program—it's a bridge to learning more about culture in our state, where students can explore history, embrace diversity, and imagine their future. This engaging experience fosters cultural awareness and personal growth in a supportive and celebratory environment.

Register Your Students Now: Don't miss the opportunity to be a part of this great day that punctuates the fact **African American history is every American's history.** The registration deadline is **January 24, 2025.** Early registration is encouraged, especially for Game Show and Biz Pitch participants, with study guides available starting January 8, 2025.