

Don't Call it a Comeback...

BLACK **Graduate Student** **Association**

2025 1st Informational Meeting



Today's Agenda

✦ **01.**

INTRODUCTION

Meet the current board members and advisor.

✦ **02.**

BACKGROUND

A brief history of the reestablishment of BLK GSA.

✦ **03.**

PURPOSE

An outline of the mission, purpose, and goals of BLK GSA.

✦ **04.**

FUTURE EVENTS

A description our plans for future events.

✦ **05.**

INVOLVEMENT

Ways to get involved as a student, organization, or department.

✦ **06.**

Q&A

Time for audience questions and answers.

Thank You!

BLK GSA wants to extend our deepest gratitude to ASP for their generous sponsorship and unwavering support in re-establishing BLK GSA. ASP's commitment to our mission has been instrumental in creating a safe, empowering, and inclusive space for the Black graduate student community.

ASP's contributions go beyond financial support—they reflect a shared vision of equity, representation, and empowerment.

We truly appreciate your partnership and look forward to growing this relationship as we continue making a positive impact together on campus.

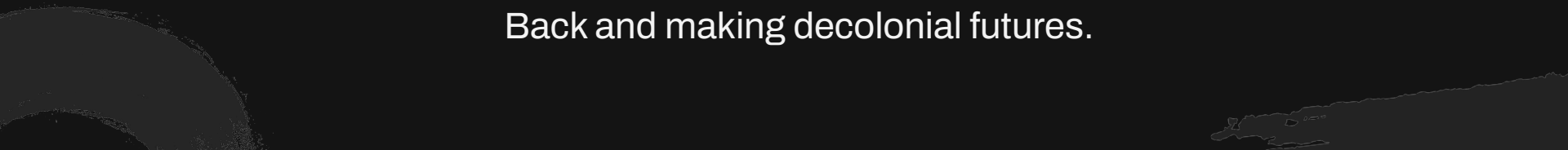
Thank you for believing in us and for standing with BLK GSA!





Land Acknowledgement

As the BLK GSA E-board we are Black arrivants in what is now called Southern California, and are complicit in ongoing processes of settler colonialism within the traditional, current, and future lands of the sovereign Cahuilla, Serrano, Luiseño and Tongva first nations. We offer this acknowledgment as an invitation for ourselves and other settlers, arrivants, and displaced people to interrogate what it means to participate in the settler colonial structures of American Universities—particularly “land grant” institutions like UCR, to interrogate the complex histories of arrivants and settler colonialism, to inform ourselves about the persistent structures of settler colonialism, to question the naturalness of the territorial borders of the United States, and to take seriously calls for Land Back and making decolonial futures.



Labor Acknowledgement

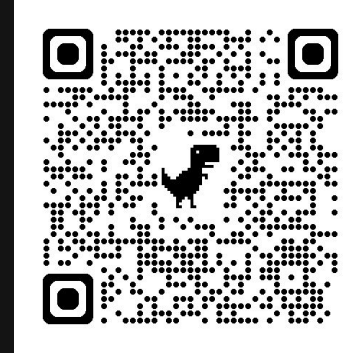
We want to acknowledge the labor, freedom, and life extracted from Black people to sustain the U.S. and systems of higher education. We acknowledge that this country would not exist without the uncompensated, enslaved labor of Black people. The labor, knowledge, culture and traditions violently stolen through chattel slavery, white supremacy, and settler colonialism built the U.S. economy and infrastructure and this history cannot be separated from the present. Current political attacks on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI), affirmative action, and policies supporting racial justice, reflect ongoing efforts to deny and delegitimize this history. These attacks dishonor those who fought and died for the rights we continue to defend today.

We also acknowledge the labor of (im)migrant communities—voluntary, involuntary, trafficked, forced, and undocumented—whose contributions have shaped this country. We emphasize that policing, surveillance, militarization, and incarceration continue to disproportionately harm Black, Brown, Indigenous, 2SQ, trans, and historically economically oppressed communities, ultimately render all members of campus and its surrounding communities less safe.

Action Items

Rather than offer these acknowledgements as a symbolic gesture that reinforces complacency and to prevent this acknowledgment from descending into performativity, we have provided several action items to explore as a community:

1. Land Grab U discloses the means by which the United States “land-grant” university system was developed and sustained via the theft of Indigenous lands. <https://www.landgrabu.org/>
2. “Decolonization is Not a Metaphor”
3. *Black on Both Sides: A Racial History of Trans Identity*
4. Scan QR Code to Access “Know Your Rights” information and the hotline for the Inland Coalition for Immigrant Justice



MEET YOUR BOARD MEMBERS



Devin Williams

(He/him)
Ph.D. Student
Education, Society &
Culture



Tanis M. Gaines

(She/her)
Ph.D. Student
Education Policy
Analysis and Leadership



**Re'Nyqua
Farrington**

(She/her)
Ph.D. Candidate
Education, Society, &
Culture



**Re'Nyqua
Cummings-Barkley**

(She/her)
Ph.D. Student
School Psychology
(HBCU Fellow)

Michael Moses II, Ph.D. (he/him)

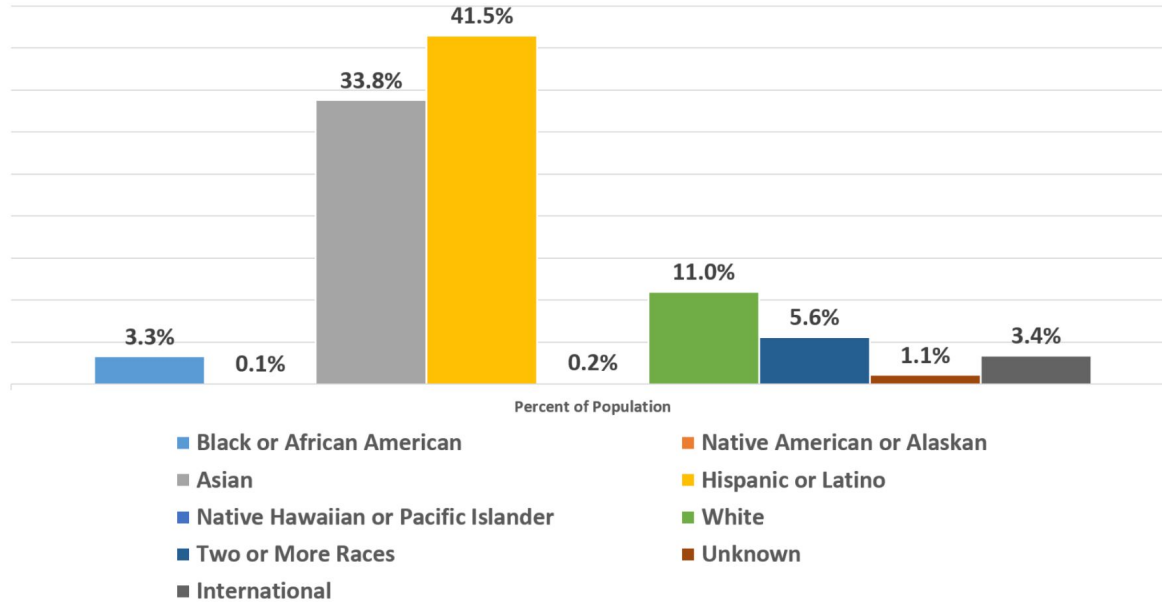
BLK GSA Advisor
Assistant Professor of Higher
Education & Qualitative Methods



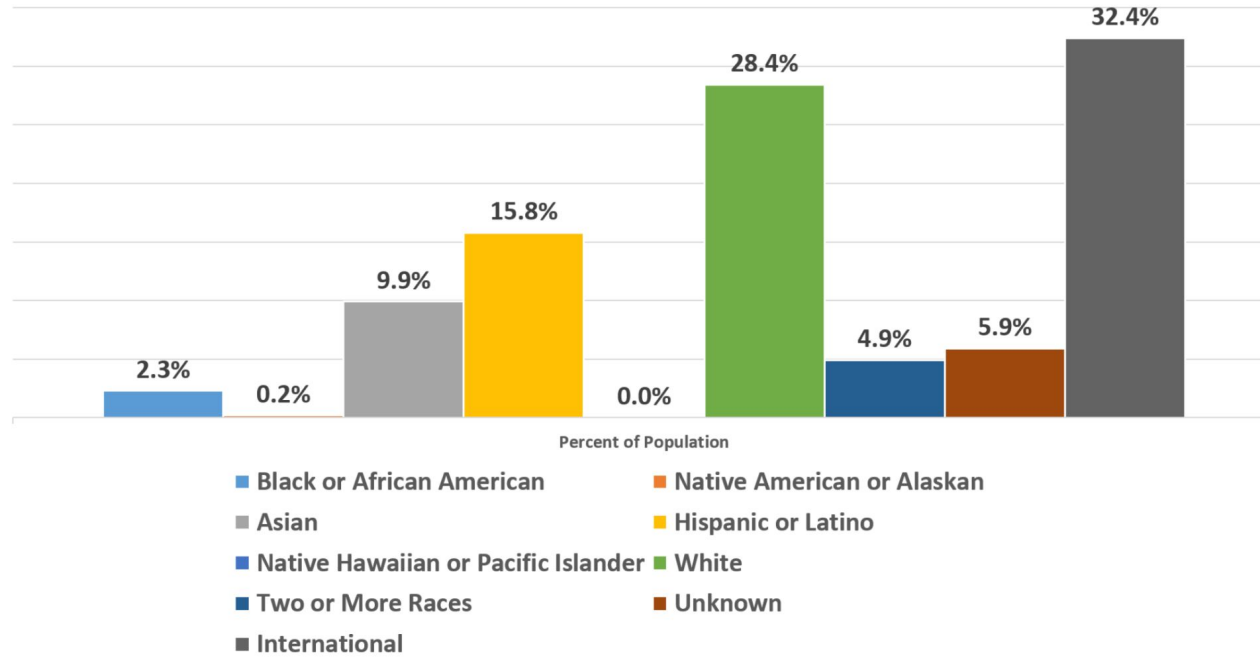
Background on BLK GSA Reestablishment



Undergraduate Student Enrollment, Ethnicity



Graduate Student Enrollment, Ethnicity





MISSION

We, the members of the Black Graduate Student Association (BLKGSA) at the University of California, Riverside (UCR), establish this organization to create a supportive, affirming, and liberatory community for Black graduate students. Grounded in the principles of Community, Culture, and Connection, the BLKGSA seeks to empower its members, celebrate Black identity, promote academic and professional excellence, and advocate for equity and inclusion within UCR and beyond.



MISSION

The mission of the BLKGSA is to foster a vibrant and inclusive space that promotes the academic, professional, social, and cultural well-being of Black graduate students at UCR. We are committed to honoring the intersectional identities within our community, addressing systemic inequities, and empowering members to lead and advocate for positive change. Additionally, the BLKGSA strives to mentor and inspire future generations of Black students, ensuring a legacy of excellence and representation in graduate education and beyond.

Guiding Principles

- **COMMUNITY** Build and sustain a safe, supportive, and affirming **environment for all Black graduate students.***
- **CULTURE** Celebrate and preserve the rich and diverse cultural heritage of the Black diaspora.
- **CONNECTION** Establish meaningful relationships among members, UCR faculty and staff, and the broader community.



Guiding Principles

- **ADVOCACY** Advocate for equitable policies and practices that support Black graduate students' success.
- **INTERDISCIPLINARY COLLABORATION** Promote collaboration and networking opportunities across and within disciplines and departments to support academic and professional growth.

Complete BLK GSA Constitution is available on Highlanderlink

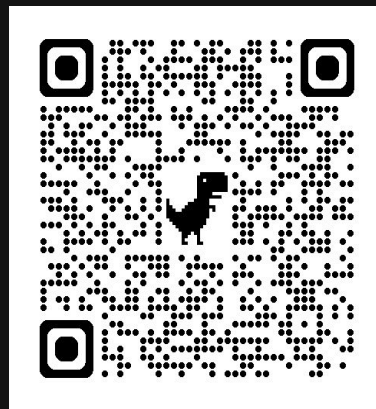


HOW TO TAP IN



01 GRADUATE STUDENTS

- Become a member
- Become a committee chair
- Scan the QR to complete the interest form



Above: QR Code for Member Interest
Form

MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS

Active Membership: can vote in elections and other group matters, can run for officer positions, and can propose amendments.

- Be a current graduate or professional student at (UCR) and listed on the HighlanderLink roster.
- Self-identify as Black, African, or of African descent or demonstrate a commitment to supporting the mission and values of BLK GSA
- Pay \$25/academic year



MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS

Associate Membership: may attend events and participate in activities but do not have voting rights or eligibility to hold executive positions.

- Open to UCR undergraduate students, alumni, faculty, staff, and community members who align with BLKGSA's mission and values.
- Members who do not fit or fulfill the requirements of "Active Members."



THE PURPOSE OF DUES

The \$25 dues support the mission of the BLK GSA to foster a vibrant and inclusive space that promotes the academic, professional, social, and cultural well-being of Black graduate students at UCR and beyond. Your investment in BLK GSA also contributes to the past, present, and future legacies of Black graduate students and our supporters.

Dues will be waived for the first full academic year



OPEN COMMITTEE CHAIR POSITIONS

Community Outreach Chair	Cultural Affairs Chair	Graduate Affairs Chair	Media Relations Chair
Coordinates service projects and partnerships with local organizations.	Plans cultural events and programs that celebrate Black heritage.	Advocates for academic and professional needs of members and maintains communication with UCR's Graduate Division.	Promotes events, both online and offline, through social media channels and digital marketing strategies.

Reach out to officialblackgsaucr@gmail.com for full committee chair position descriptions

✦ 02

FACULTY AND STAFF

- Share expertise at BLK GSA event
- Sponsor a BLK GSA member
- Donate to BLK GSA



✦ 03.

ORGANIZATIONS

- Email BLK GSA for partnership opportunities
- Follow our Instagram: @officialblackgsaucr
- Share with your organization members





DEPARTMENTS/COLLEGES

- Share link to interest form within your department newsletter or communications
- Email BLK GSA for partnership opportunities
- Offer space for BLK GSA during graduate student events (e.g. new student orientation, research symposium)

FUTURE EVENTS

Tues. ✨ — **April 8: 12-1:30 pm** — BLK GSA Kickoff Event: Create a time capsule

Friday ✨ — **April 11: 12-1:30 pm** — Celebrate Your Milestones Through Collage Making

Wed. ✨ — **April 16: 3-4pm** — Graduate Student Weekly Coffee Social

RSVPs for Black Grad Week



BLACK GRADUATE STUDENT ASSOCIATION (BLK GSA) PRESENTS:

BLACK GRAD WEEK



KICK OFF EVENT: TIME CAPSULE

LAUNCH OUR EXCITING JOURNEY WITH A TIME CAPSULE CELEBRATION FOR BLK GSA! CONTRIBUTE A SPECIAL ITEM OR MESSAGE TO SEAL AWAY FOR THE FUTURE OF BLK GSA, AND LET'S MAKE HISTORY TOGETHER!

ENJOY FUN ACTIVITIES, BUILD COMMUNITY, AND CELEBRATE NEW BEGINNINGS.

APRIL

8

SSC
12:00 - 1:30 PM



CHEERS TO ACHIEVEMENTS: COLLAGE PARTY

CELEBRATE ACHIEVEMENTS, BIG AND SMALL, AT OUR COLLAGE PARTY! SOMETIMES IN GRADUATE SCHOOL, YOU DON'T GET THE CHANCE TO CELEBRATE YOUR MILESTONES—BUT WE'RE CHANGING THAT.

EXPRESS YOUR JOURNEY THROUGH ART AS WE CREATE MEANINGFUL COLLAGES FILLED WITH ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND INSPIRATION.

APRIL

11

SSC
12:00 - 1:30 PM

THANKS!

DO YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS?

Linktree: <https://linktr.ee/officialblackgsaucr>

Email: officialblackgsaucr@gmail.com

HighlanderLink: <https://highlanderlink.ucr.edu/actioncenter/organization/blkgsa> |

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