



KAAAC Advocacy Toolkit

Sample Proclamation

TO THE PEOPLE OF KANSAS, GREETINGS:

WHEREAS, During Black History Month, we celebrate the many achievements and contributions made by African Americans to our economic, cultural, spiritual and political development: and

WHEREAS, In 1915, Dr. Carter Godwin Woodson, noted Black scholar and son of former slaves, founded the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History, which was later renamed the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH); and

WHEREAS, Dr. Woodson initiated Black History Week, February 12, 1926; and for many years, the second week of February, chosen so as to coincide with the birthdays of Frederick Douglas and Abraham Lincoln, was celebrated by African Americans in the United States, and

WHEREAS, in 1976, as part of the nation's bicentennial, Black History Week was expanded and became established as Black History Month, and is now celebrated all over North America; and

WHEREAS, After the Civil War, exodusters migrated from the South and settled approximately twenty Kansas towns; they brought with them the desire for economic opportunities, freedom from oppression and harassment, and freedom to create their own lives; these settlers played an important role in settling the State of Kansas, as well as the rest of the United States; and

WHEREAS, While the observance of Black History Month calls our Nation's attention to the continued need to battle racism and to build a society that lives up to its democratic ideals, 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 President on January 20, 2009;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, _____, do hereby proclaim February 2009 as

Black History Month

In Kansas and urge all citizens to celebrate our diverse heritage and culture and continue our efforts to create a world that is more just, peaceful and prosperous for all.

Done:

BY _____: *Signature*