

September 2024

ATBHK Newsletter

Collaborate. Curate. Celebrate.

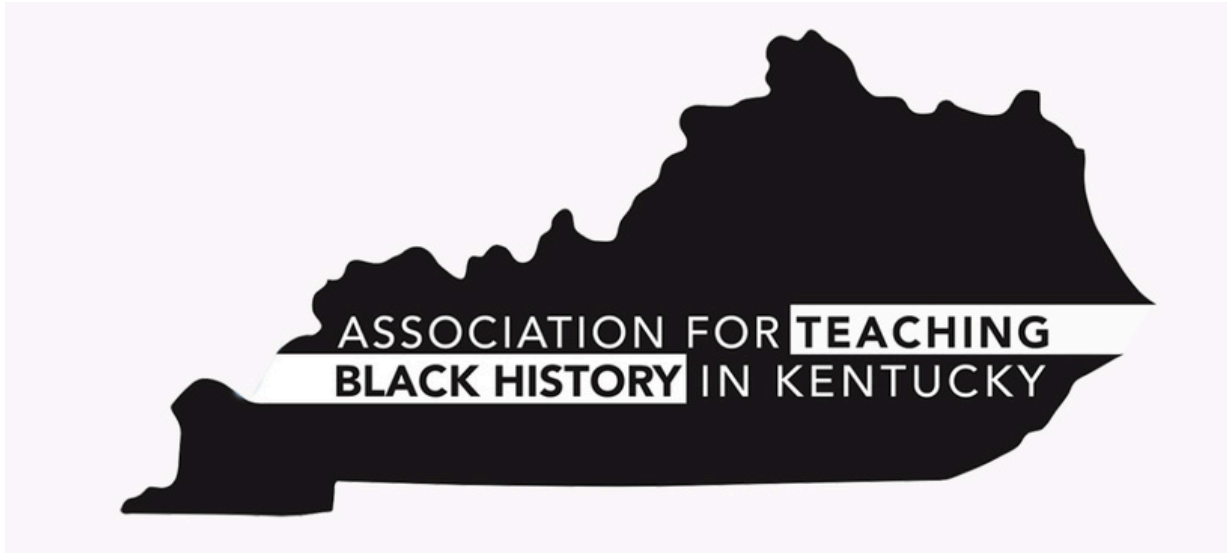


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Welcome to the latest edition of our newsletter, designed especially for the dedicated supporters and friends of the Association for Teaching Black History in Kentucky. We're thrilled to have you with us as we continue our mission to educate, inspire, and honor the rich history of Black Kentuckians.

ATBHK Attends Lincoln Institute Reunion

Last month, Lincoln Institute graduates, affectionately known as Lincolnites, gathered for another bi-annual reunion. Alongside Dr. Dwayne Mack, Vice President for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion at Berea College, I had the privilege of visiting, sharing stories, and celebrating with several alumni of this remarkable institution. This year's reunion honored graduates and recognized descendants from the classes of 1912 to 1966.



The mission of ATBHK is to collaborate with Kentucky's educators to bring to light the stories of Black Kentuckians that might otherwise remain untold. The existence of the Lincoln Institute is one such story. Established in response to the 1904 Kentucky Day Law, the Lincoln Institute became a beacon of quality education for Black students at a time when interracial education was declared unconstitutional.

Berea College, the first interracial and coeducational higher education institution in the South, remained steadfast in the ideals of its founder, abolitionist John G. Fee. In alignment with these principles, Berea College allocated \$400,000—equivalent to nearly \$14 million today—to establish the Lincoln Institute in Simpsonville, KY.

ATBHK Teacher Spotlight of the Month: Jessica Roberts



ATBHK is thrilled to recognize Jessica Roberts, a dedicated 6th grade English Language Arts (ELA) and Social Studies teacher at North Warren Elementary in Warren County, KY, as our September Teacher Spotlight! Jessica has been the driving force behind an inquiry-based project centered on the historically significant Jonesville community. This unit allows students to explore Jonesville's rich history and cultural contributions, fostering a deep connection to local heritage. We're excited to share that this unit will soon be available for educators across Kentucky.

Jessica shares, "I strive to create a rich and engaging environment that highlights the contributions and experiences of Black individuals throughout history. I incorporate diverse books and poems by Black authors and design lessons on themes like the Civil Rights Movement or the Harlem Renaissance, giving students a deep sense of these pivotal times."

She adds, "This subject holds a significant place in my heart because it allows our students to see themselves reflected in the stories and achievements that shape our state. Learning about the contributions of Black individuals in Kentucky gives children a sense of belonging and pride in their heritage, empowering them to impact their communities and the world."

Join us in celebrating Jessica Roberts for her outstanding contributions to education and her dedication to preserving and teaching Black history in Kentucky.

ATBHK Undergraduate Spotlight of the Month: *Jayden Trawick-Junta*

This month, we proudly recognize Jayden Trawick-Junta as our Undergraduate Student Spotlight. A Berea College student majoring in History and African American Studies, Jayden has demonstrated an exceptional commitment to understanding and educating others about Kentucky's Black history.

Jayden's academic work reflects his deep passion for this subject. In his essay, "An Overview of the Negro Leagues: Exploring the Legacy of African American Baseball," Jayden explores the significant role of the Louisville Unions in the early 1900s. He writes: "The Louisville Unions are a great example of how African American baseball teams in the early 1900s helped lead to the formation of what would later be known as the Negro Leagues. The Louisville Unions were responsible for creating a growing interest in baseball within the region and networking with other cities to create something bigger."

Jayden's dedication to uncovering and sharing these critical narratives extends beyond his studies. He is committed to educating young students about people, events, and stories they might not otherwise encounter. His efforts empower the youth to lead future movements and drive necessary changes not just here in Kentucky, but across the entire country.

We commend Jayden Trawick-Junta for his dedication to this important work and look forward to seeing the impact he will continue to make in our community. Congratulations, Jayden!



Spotlight Teacher and Undergraduate Recommendations

Do you know an exceptional Kentucky teacher who is making a significant impact in teaching Black history? We want to hear about them! Nominate a dedicated educator who is bringing Kentucky's Black history to life in the classroom and inspiring students.

Teacher of the Month Nomination Form

**Undergraduate Student of the Month
Nomination Form**

ATBHK Mini-Grant Application OPEN NOW!

The Association for Teaching Black History in Kentucky is excited to offer mini-grants to support our amazing K-12 teachers! If you have a creative project or lesson idea focused on Kentucky's rich Black history, we want to help make it happen.

What Can You Do with the Grant?

- *Teaching Materials:* Buy books, films, and other resources to bring Black history to life in your classroom.
- *Field Trips:* Take your students on educational trips to museums, historical sites, and cultural centers.
- *Conferences and Workshops:* Attend events that help you learn more about Black history and bring back new ideas to your students.
- *Special Projects:* Develop new lesson plans, invite guest speakers, or create unique projects that engage your students in learning about Black history.

Grant Amounts

You can apply for grants ranging from \$250 to \$500. And the best part? You can apply for renewal each year if funds are available!

Who Can Apply?

Any K-12 teacher in Kentucky with a passion for teaching Black history.

Application Process:

1. *Fill Out the Form:* Provide some basic information about yourself and your school, then describe your project, how you'll use the funds, and what you hope to achieve.
2. *Review and Decision:* Our committee will review all applications and select the projects that best meet our mission.



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Professional Reading

The Democratization of AI and its Transformative Potential in Social Studies Education

A recent article explores how the democratization of AI, including tools like ChatGPT, is reshaping education. It highlights both the challenges and opportunities AI presents, emphasizing the need to integrate AI literacy into curricula. While some institutions ban AI tools to maintain academic integrity, this could leave students at a disadvantage compared to peers who are proficient in AI. As AI continues to disrupt the educational landscape, equipping students with the skills to navigate this technology is crucial for their future success.

**ATBHK Wants to
Visit Your School!**



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