

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION AND THE SUPERINTENDENT OF THE
OAKLAND UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
Resolution No. 1112-0136**

**Designating February 2012 as Black History Month
In the Oakland Unified School District**

WHEREAS, Black history is American history and the success of America is a Tribute to all its people, regardless of race, creed or ethnicity; and

WHEREAS, Today's great figures represent only the latest chapter in a long narrative that, all too often, we fail to honor appropriately in this country; and

WHEREAS, In 1926 Carter G. Woodson founded Black History Month - which was just a week at the time - to celebrate the accomplishments of great men and women such as Frederick Douglass, W.E.B. Dubois, Sojourner Truth, Mary McLeod Bethune and many others too numerous name; and

WHEREAS, Woodson also hoped to shed light on the achievements of ordinary men and women whose quiet successes have helped advance their people and this country; and

WHEREAS, Woodson himself lived an inspirational life as the son of former slaves who spent his childhood working in Kentucky coal mines and enrolled in high school at age twenty before earning a Ph.D. from Harvard; and

WHEREAS, It is historical figures such as Woodson, and real-life figures across the country and in Oakland schools today that can serve as role models for our children; and

WHEREAS, The path to success is rarely easy, but has been traveled time and again by those determined to conquer the odds; and

WHEREAS, It is the lesson of hard work and perseverance that Oakland Unified School District celebrates as it strives to prepare - students to both expect and to achieve success,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education and the Superintendent designate February 2012 as Black History Month in the Oakland Unified School District to honor this unique chapter of the multilayered American story.

Given under our hand and the District's seal this 25th day of January 2012 at Oakland, California.

Jody London
President, Board of Education
Oakland Unified School District

Tony Smith
Superintendent
Oakland Unified School District