

**RESOLUTION OF THE STATE ADMINISTRATOR AND BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE  
OAKLAND UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**Resolution No. 0809-0141**

**Honoring the 2009 Celebration of Black History Month**

**WHEREAS,** The historic events of the last few months have reinforced more than ever the idea that black history is American history and that the success of this country is a tribute to all its people, regardless of race, creed or ethnicity; and

**WHEREAS,** The election of Barack Obama, while historic and noteworthy, is merely the culmination of hundreds of years of sacrifice that made this event possible; and

**WHEREAS,** Today's great figures represent only the latest chapter in a long history, a history, 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,** Carter himself lived an inspiration life as the son of former slaves who spent his childhood working in the Kentucky coal mines and enrolled in high school at age twenty before earning a Ph.D. from Harvard; and

**WHEREAS,** It is historical examples such as this, and real-life examples occurring across the country and in Oakland schools today, that can serve as a model 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 this lesson of hard work and perseverance that Oakland Unified School District celebrates as we strive to prepare our students to both expect and to achieve success,

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the State Administrator and the Board of Education of the Oakland Unified School District honor the 2009 edition of Black History month and recognize this unique chapter of the multilayered American story.

Given under our hand and the District's seal this 25<sup>th</sup> day of February 2009 at Oakland, California.

Vincent Matthews  
State Administrator  
Oakland Unified School District

Alice Spearman  
President, Board of Education  
Oakland Unified School District