



*A non-profit corporation serving
the needs of Iowa State University*

Black Cultural Center

517 Welch Avenue

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The University

March 17, 1869, marked the inception of Iowa State University. The College was the first Land Grant institution opened on a co-educational basis. Since 1959 the institution has been known as Iowa State University of Science and Technology and has maintained excellence in the areas of science, technology, engineering, and agriculture.

More than 21,000 students are experiencing the educational benefits of Iowa State University, which includes a graduate school as well as a four-year undergraduate program.

The Black Cultural Center

The Black Cultural Center, 517 Welch Avenue, Ames, Iowa, is a private, non-profit corporation which is affiliated with the Office of Minority Student Programs at Iowa State University.

The BCC was established January 1, 1970, with the assistance of a number of dedicated individuals and organizations. Through the financial assistance of the all-student Veishea Central Committee, a grant from the Government of Student Body (GSB), and the efforts of the Black Student Organization (BSO) to form an ad hoc housing committee, the Black Cultural Center came into being.

The BCC is the result of students, faculty, staff, and community people striving toward a common goal, and it is dedicated now—as it was at its inception—to racial understanding.

The Black Cultural Center is a place where people with sincere concern for humanity can meet to share one another's life experiences. The BCC serves as a home for Black students, faculty, and staff and a house of hospitality for non-black persons. The Center speaks to the social, psychological, and spiritual needs of Black students.

To actualize the philosophy of the BCC, definite goals and objectives have been set. Our primary objective is education. A second objective is to provide resources and programming which will allow other minority groups to share their culture with the community at large. Third, we provide opportunities and programs that give an accurate portrayal of Black culture, past and present. Fourth, we emphasize creative interpretation of the Afro-American heritage through various art forms. And, finally, we strive to involve community persons in student life.

University personnel and community individuals are drawn together to lead and participate in skill development workshops and outreach programs such as: Interviewing Techniques; Test Anxiety; Money Management; Career/Life Planning; Black Female Awareness. Skill development workshops are held once each month throughout the academic school year. All workshops are free and open to the public.

The Multi-Cultural Children's Studies Program (Saturday Morning Project) is a BCC-YWCA co-sponsored activity which focuses on American minorities and the African culture. Cultures all over the world are also examined. Children between the ages of 5 and 11 are introduced to ethnic cultures through slides and music, and are supervised by student staff and volunteers.

The BCC is also a social outlet for students. Students can come together and interact at events such as the Annual Fashion Show, the Black Student Recognition Banquet, Talent Shows, and religious services. Church services are held every Sunday. The student fashion show and recognition dinner are usually held in the spring of the year.

The Jack Trice Memorial Library

On October 6, 1923, Jack Trice, the first Black football player to actively participate in Iowa State athletics, lost his life as a result of injuries in a Minnesota-Iowa State football game. Trice was respected and liked by most. The day of his funeral, classes were suspended and the 4,000 students and faculty formed a semi-circle northwest of the campanile to give their last respects to Jack Trice. We pay homage by naming the BCC library the "Jack Trice Memorial Library."

The library has over 1,300 publications—including books, magazines, and other periodicals—and is continuing to grow because of community support from persons donating books and other useful materials.