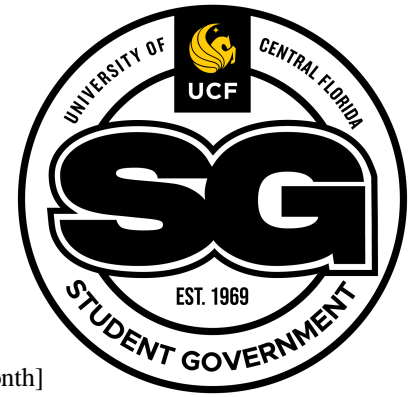


**Introduced By:** Black Caucus  
**Sponsored By:**  
**Contact:** sgblackcaucus@ucf.edu  
**First Reading:** July 20, 2023  
**Committee Action:** Passed 9-0-1  
**Second Reading:** July 27, 2023  
**Final Vote:** Passed 36-0-1



**University of Central Florida  
Fifty-Fifth Student Body Senate  
Proclamation 55-03**

[Proclamation Recognizing August 2023 as Black Business Month]

**WHEREAS**, Senate Rule 2.04(G)(1) states that the Student Body Advocacy (SBA) Committee shall pass measures advocating on behalf of the student body regarding student and university affairs at the University of Central Florida (UCF);  
**WHEREAS**, Senate Rule 5.01(D)(1) states that Proclamations are defined as measures recognizing, celebrating, or condemning extraordinary events, organizations, or individuals on behalf of all Student Government Agents;  
**WHEREAS**, Black Business Month is dedicated to advocating for racial justice, equity and economic liberty by promoting businesses owned by Black/African-American individuals;  
**WHEREAS**, Black Business Month also intends to recognize the historic and contemporary economic and financial inequities Black/African American individuals face in the United States;  
**WHEREAS**, According to a report by Congressman Don Beyer (D-Virginia), *The Economic State of Black America 2020*, African Americans are twice as likely to suffer from unemployment, have a median income a tenth that of White Americans (\$17,000 vs. \$171,000), and, in broad strokes, claims that income inequality, a product of Jim Crow, continues to negatively impact African Americans;  
**WHEREAS**, According to the Economic Policy Institute, *2023 Q1 State Unemployment by Race and Ethnicity*, 3.4% of Black people are unemployed compared to White, Hispanic, and AAPI who all were under 3%;  
**WHEREAS**, According to a 2020 State of Small Business report from Guidant Financial and the Lending Club, roughly 72% of African-American owned businesses are stated as being profitable, which is lower than the national average, sitting at 78%;  
**WHEREAS**, Black Business Month was initiated by engineer Frederick E. Jordan Sr. and historian Jordan William Templeton in 2004;  
**WHEREAS**, They intended to bring attention to the systemic inequities that African-American business owners face when seeking financing or other assistance for their businesses and intend on dispelling those inequities by promoting African American owned businesses;  
**WHEREAS**, Participating in Black Business Month is a matter of shopping locally and purchasing goods and services from these firms;  
**WHEREAS**, The Coalition to Back Black Businesses was formed in order to support black-owned businesses that were financially harmed by the coronavirus pandemic;  
**WHEREAS**, The aim of the Coalition to Back Black Businesses is to provide \$14 million in grants and additional support to embolden Black-owned small businesses through 2023;  
**WHEREAS**, Black/African American businesses account for 10% of the US economy, yet generate close to \$150 billion in revenue, per the United States Census and Afro News;  
**WHEREAS**, According to Oberlo, in 2022, roughly 26% of entrepreneurs identify as African American;  
**WHEREAS**, According to The Black Enterprise, Black/African Americans make up 7% of the finance and marketing business majors in America; and  
**WHEREAS**, Black/African Americans make up 9.7% of the UCF population.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, That it is the opinion of the Fifty-Fifth Student Senate of the University of Central Florida that celebrates August 2023 as Black Business Month, and encourages any events promoting Black/African American businesses; and

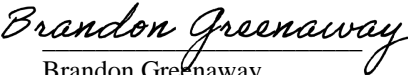
**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, That a copy of this Resolution be sent to President Alexander Cartwright, Provost Michael D. Johnson, Access Program Director Wayne Johnson, Vice President for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Andrea Guzmán, Office of Student Involvement Associate Director Chantel Carter, Civil Discourse & Engagement Director Justin Andrade, and Assistant Vice President of Community Support Edwanna Andrews.

**AUTHORIZING SIGNATURES**



Sierra Holmes  
Senate President

08/09/2023  
Date



Brandon Greenaway  
Student Body President

8/14/2023  
Date