“Black lives and Black minds are intertwined: if one does not value the life, then they certainly will not value the mind.”
- J. Luke Wood

“A mind is a terrible thing to erase”
- Donna Y Ford
Partnering Organizations

We would like to extend a special thank you to our sponsors for their support in the development and delivery of Black Minds Matter.

Inspiration for Course

Black Minds Matter was inspired by the Education Trust-West report “Black Minds Matter.” This report documented the challenges and opportunities facing Black learners in the state of California.

Moreover, this course was offered in response to the advocacy of African American Ph.D. students at SDSU who were actively engaged in civil resistance following the slaying of unarmed Alfred Olango in El Cajon (San Diego).
About Dr. Luke Wood

J. Luke Wood, Ph.D. is the Dean’s Distinguished Professor of Education and Vice President for Student Affairs & Campus Diversity at San Diego State University. Dr. Wood is also Co-Director of the Community College Equity Assessment Lab (CCEAL), a national research and practice center. Formerly, Dr. Wood served as Associate Vice President for Faculty Diversity & Inclusion.

Wood’s research focuses on factors affecting the success of Black boys and men in education, with a specific focus on community colleges. In particular, his research examines contributors (e.g., social, psychological, academic, environmental, institutional) to positive outcomes. He also partners with his wife Idara on studies focused on Black children in early childhood education. Dr. Wood has delivered over 1,000 scholarly, professional and conference presentations. Dr. Wood has authored over 150 publications, including more than 70 peer-reviewed journal articles. He has authored and edited 15 books.

Wood received his PhD in Educational Leadership & Policy Studies (Higher Education) and master’s degree in Curriculum and Instruction (Early Childhood Education) from Arizona State University (ASU). He also holds a master’s degree in Higher Education Leadership (Student Affairs) and a bachelor’s degree in Black History and Politics from California State University, Sacramento. Luke is a member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Incorporated.
About Dr. Donna Ford

Donna Y. Ford, PhD, is a Distinguished Professor of Education and Human Ecology and Kirwan Institute Faculty Affiliate at The Ohio State University’s College of Education and Human Ecology. She is in the Educational Studies Dept., Special Education Program. She returned to OSU in Aug. 2019. Professor Ford was formerly an endowed chair at Vanderbilt University in the College of Education. Dr. Ford has been a Professor of Special Education at the Ohio State University, an Associate Professor of Educational Psychology at the University of Virginia, and an Assistant Professor at the University of Kentucky.

Professor Ford conducts research primarily in gifted education and multicultural/urban education. Specifically, her work focuses on: (1) the achievement gap; (2) recruiting and retaining culturally different students in gifted education; (3) multicultural curriculum and instruction; (4) culturally competent teacher training and development; (5) African-American identity; and (6) African-American family involvement. She consults with school districts, and educational and legal organizations on such topics as gifted education under-representation and Advanced Placement, multicultural/urban education and counseling, and closing the achievement gap.

Professor Ford has written over 350 articles and book chapters; she has made over 2,000 presentations at professional conferences and organizations, and in school districts. Professor Ford earned her Doctor of Philosophy degree in Urban Education (educational psychology) (1991), Masters of Education degree (counseling) (1988), and Bachelor of Arts degree in communications and Spanish (1984) from Cleveland State University.
Course Purpose

Black Minds Matter is a public series that is designed to raise the national consciousness about issues facing Black students in education. The series intentionally addresses the pervasive undervaluing and criminalization of Black minds. Tangible solutions for promoting the learning, development, and success of Black students are offered.

Student Learning Outcomes

- Identify how assumptions of criminality about Black students are manifested in school, college, and university settings.
- Recognize how socially constructed viewpoints of Black intelligence decenter them as learners in educational institutions.
- Embrace asset-based views of Black students rooted in the concepts of equity-mindedness and institutional responsibility.
- Articulate research-based policies and practices that serve to promote the learning, development, and success of Black students throughout the educational pipeline.

Course Prerequisites

There are two dispositional prerequisites for this course. Learners must have a willingness to:

1. Acknowledge their own unconscious and conscious biases and the effect this has on the educational experiences of Black students.
2. Engage their personal responsibility for redressing disparate educational outcomes for Black students in education.

Required Books


Go here for [digital version](#)

All proceeds from the book from June through December are being donated to the [Alfred Olango Foundation](#). In addition, for every book purchased, the vendor [bookshop.org](http://bookshop.org) is donating to local Black bookstore in the area of the purchaser's home.

Required


Recommended


Session 2

July 23

Required


Recommended


Session 3  
July 30

**Required**


**Recommended**


Session 4  
August 6

**Required**


**Recommended**

Session 5  
August 13

Required


Recommended

BLACK MINDS MATTER

A FREE five-part series - July 16, 23 & 30 & August 6 & 13 11am-12:30pm Pacific Time

Shante Needham  
Sister of Sandra Bland

Gwen Carr  
Mother of Eric Garner

Michael Brown Sr.  
Father of Michael Brown Jr.

Pamela Benge  
Mother of Alfred Olango

Register: https://bit.ly/3efELFd

hosted by J. Luke Wood & Donna Y. Ford