

## The "Wednesday Word"

Feb. 2, 2022

### "Not Just A Peanut"

Years ago, I recall reading/hearing something about how certain everyday items become extraordinary "in the hands of the right person". Unable to find that passage I thought I would create a new one in honor of Black History Month 2022. There are daily attacks to our blackness whether they be bomb threats at HBCUs, legislation to prohibit voting, school boards attempting to stop the unknown teaching of CRT in K-12 classrooms, or any of the myriad of personal affronts that we experience on individual levels. Now more than ever we and others need to reflect on the greatness that is us as a people. Our collective accomplishments are many and varied. Let's celebrate a few. (Note: if you don't recognize a name or two, time to do some homework and find out more about our history.)



### "Not Just A Peanut"

*In the eyes of most it's just a peanut; in the hands of **Dr. George Washington Carver** it became the source of countless inventions.*

*In certain hands it's just a lump of clay; in the hands of **Selma Hortense Burke** it became some of this nation's most enduring sculptures.*

*Out of the mouths of most came nice sermons; out of the mouth of **Rev. Dr. Howard Thurman** came sermons from which hundreds of others were preached.*

*In the hands of most it was a pencil; in the hands of **Lewis Latimer** it become a tool that led to some of the most significant inventions of the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries.*

*For most it is merely a kitchen; for **Leah Chase** it became a culinary workshop that literally fed the Civil Rights movement and so much more.*

*In the words of a writer it's just a poem; in the words of **Amanda Gorman** it becomes the hope of a nation.*

*In the hands of the average actor it is merely a role; in the hands of **Sir Sidney Poitier** it becomes an unforgettable performance.*

*In the hands of most people it's just a racket; in the hands of **Serena Williams** it becomes the instrument to make her the most successful woman to play the sport of tennis.*

*For some it is merely a piano; under the fingers of **Stevie Wonder** it produces a “Ribbon in the Sky”.*

*In the skillful hands of a surgeon it’s a scalpel; in the hands of **Daniel Hale Williams** it produced the first successful heart surgery.*

*On the lips of most it’s a moving speech, on the lips of **Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.** it becomes the speech of a lifetime.*

AABHE salutes all Black history makers not only now but throughout the year. We also would like to challenge you to look beyond what you see in your students and colleagues to be able to see the unlimited potential that each one possesses...

Stay well, stay safe, stay COVID smart, and continue to do good work,



### AABHE Notes:

- Join us for Our Black History Webinar tomorrow, Thursday Feb. 3<sup>rd</sup> 1:00-2:00p est



aabhe AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF BLACKS IN HIGHER EDUCATION PRESENTS:

*Black History Webinar*

**THE GREAT EQUALIZER: BLACKS IN HIGHER ED**

VIRTUAL VIA ZOOM

**FEB. 03, 2022**  
**1 - 2 PM EST**

SCAN TO REGISTER, OR VISIT

WWW.BLACKSINHIGHERED.ORG/  
PAGE/THEGREATEQUALIZER2022

with *Blanc Harding*

FORMER DIRECTOR OF DIVERSITY ENGAGEMENT FOR THE OFFICE OF INCLUSION AND DIVERSITY AT VIRGINIA TECH UNIVERSITY

- Register now for our 2022 Annual Conference ...  
[Click Here to Register!](#)



The graphic features the AABHE logo in the top left corner, which includes the text 'aabhe' and 'American Association of Blacks in Higher Education' with a stylized map of the United States. Below the logo is a small square image of a modern interior with recessed lighting. To the right of this image is a yellow banner with the text 'American Association of Blacks in Higher Education'. Below the banner, the text '2022 Annual Conference' is written in a large, elegant script font. In the center is a circular photograph of four people (three men and one woman) standing together. Below the photo is a white box with a subtle pattern containing the text 'TRANSFORMATION, TIMING, AND TALENTS: Uncovering the Experiences of Blacks in Higher Education' and 'March 14-15, 2022' in a bold, dark red font. The entire graphic is set against a background of dark red geometric shapes.

**aabhe**  
American Association of Blacks  
in Higher Education

American Association of Blacks in Higher Education

*2022 Annual Conference*

**TRANSFORMATION, TIMING, AND TALENTS:**  
Uncovering the Experiences of  
Blacks in Higher Education

**March 14-15, 2022**