



Hampton

CONVENTION & VISITOR BUREAU



Media Release

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HAMPTON K12 SUMMER INSTITUTE STUDIES 1619 AFRICAN ARRIVAL

--Hampton 2019 Commemorative Commission and Hampton City Schools partner on program to clarify history of first recorded African Arrival in English-occupied North America--

HAMPTON, VA—Thirty Hampton City Schools educators will spend mornings July 23-26 learning the details regarding the first African Arrival in English North America from subject matter experts. The initiative is part of an effort to clarify the details of the 1619 arrival so that youth of Hampton, Virginia, and the nation learn the facts of this pivotal occurrence in American history.

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HAMPTON K12 SUMMER INSTITUTE STUDIES 1619 AFRICAN ARRIVAL- Page 2

As witnessed and recorded by John Rolfe, the first tobacco planter in the Virginia colony, on August 20, 1619, the *White Lion* entered the Chesapeake Bay, docked at Point Comfort (present day Hampton) with Africans from the country Angola, of the Bantu culture. They spoke the languages of the Kimbundu and Kikongo. Many were literate and hailed from highly organized societies. Two of those Africans, named Antoney and Isabell, became servants of Captain William Tucker, Commander of the fort at Point Comfort. Around 1623 or 1624, the union of Isabell and Antoney birthed the first African child in English North America, named William Tucker. The other arriving Africans were interspersed within the Virginia colony, from Elizabeth City County to Jamestown.

Hampton 2019 Commemorative Commission Co-Chairs Dr. Colita Fairfax and Lt. Col. Ret. Claude Vann, are among the discussion leaders that also include:

Chief Walt ‘Red Hawk’ Brown of the Cheroenhaka Nottoway Indian Tribe Southhampton County, speaking on Monday, July 23. Chief Red Hawk will lead a discussion about the rich culture and heritage of Virginia Indians, prior to the intersection of the English and Africans, and how war and conquest impacted Virginia Indians.

Dr. Michael Hucles, presenting on Wednesday, July 25. Dr. Hucles will discuss Virginia codified laws and statutes impacting African people with regards to racism, enslavement, and ‘free’ status, with emphasis on the 1619-1699 period.

Dr. Patrick Mbajekwe, presenting on Tuesday, July 24, educating about the culture of the Bantu and the Angolans who arrived at Point Comfort aboard the *White Lion* (present day Hampton). Dr. Mbajekwe will present a history of Angola and the events which led to the kidnapping of African people, the travails of the *White Lion*, the Middle Passage, and African (Bantu—Angolan) cultural influences in America.

Dr. June Montgomery, presenting on Thursday, July 26 speaking about engaging children and lesson plan preparation of the K-12 Institute content. The presentation will

**HAMPTON K12 SUMMER INSTITUTE STUDIES 1619 AFRICAN
ARRIVAL- Page 3**

include methods of instruction, ideas for educational creative modalities for each grade level, and bridge content to help students understand the contemporary relatability of the narrative.

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Participating elementary, middle and high school teachers represent multiple disciplines including History, Special Education, General Education, English and Language Arts, Music, Library Media and Interdisciplinary Studies. The program takes place at Hilton Garden Inn, located at 1999 Power Plant Parkway, 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. The Hampton 2019 Commemorative Commission, established by Hampton City Council, sponsors the program that serves as a pilot for a broader outreach program occurring in 2019.

The event is one in a series of programs, events, and exhibits that will commemorate the 400th anniversary of the first African arrival at Point Comfort in Hampton, Virginia. The commission's role is to implement a plan to commemorate the 1619 landing of Africans in English North America, seeking international recognition of enslaved Africans' and their point of entry at Point Comfort in English-occupied North America, and realizing this vision through discourse, planning and promotion of activities that broadly engage local, national and international audiences.

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