



# MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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## Black History Month Symposium

**SURREY, BC** – The Kwantlen Student Association (KSA) and KPU International will be holding a Black History Month Symposium on Feb 24th on the Surrey Campus of Kwantlen Polytechnic University. The symposium is one of several events being held for Black History Month, including a movie marathon in KSA's GrassRoots Cafe on February 8th and 9th.

The symposium will feature a panel discussion and is aimed at engaging students. **"It is important to engage students in activities that get them together to think broadly about the black experience. We hope through student involvement that they will become active participants in seeking information about diversity and inclusivity,"** said Zainab Al-koubaisi, Manager of Global Engagement at KPU International.

The Symposium will run from 12:00pm until 4:00pm and begin with a TED talk followed by a panel discussion featuring Dr. Charles Quist-Adade and Joy Walcott. The two will discuss topics including the global struggle for justice, culture, and the sharing of stories. The panel discussion will include an opportunity to ask questions. At 2:30pm there will be a fashion show followed by a performance showcasing African dance and closing remarks. The Symposium will be held in the KPU Surrey Gym in the Cedar building, food will be provided, and a live DJ will be present throughout the event.

The Symposium follows from the tradition of student groups at KPU such as the Students of Colour Collective in discussing topics that focus on African Canadians and those of African descent. **"Black History month offers a valuable opportunity to educate students on the long history of oppression in Canada, and to celebrate and highlight African narratives, worldviews, fashion, and culture,"** said Natasha Lopes, Vice President of Student Life at the KSA, who helped organize the event.

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The Kwantlen Student Association represents over 18,000 students enrolled at the four Metro Vancouver campuses of Kwantlen Polytechnic University.