



# Black Girls and Women Race, Gender, Power, and Global Education



**GLOBAL EDUCATION  
SUMMER INSTITUTE**

**June 15 - 30, 2025**

*The Black Moors of Spain*

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[www.global-academics.org](http://www.global-academics.org)

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## ABOUT GLOBAL ACADEMICS

Global Academics is a non-profit organization that creates opportunities for underserved African-American youth and young adults to engage in immersion learning and self-discovery through leadership development combined with travel to explore the Black World.





Although Black Girls and women have made tremendous gains in school and work over the last few decades, Black females continue to face challenges and barriers to leadership, including racial and gender biases that impact self-esteem, personal safety, positive identity formation, knowledge of self, conflict resolution, and more. As adults, there is much we can do to prepare Black girls and women to become leaders that challenge these biases and positively impact social justice issues in the community.

Research shows that Black Girls and women do not lack confidence in leading – as this is already a role they play in family and community – but they do experience discrimination and lack of opportunities for leadership development and participation in global academic programs. At [Global Academics](#), we believe that the most effective way to foster strong leadership development for Black Girls and women is by supporting a positive foundational identity that is rooted in a knowledge of who we are historically and culturally as African people and the critical ways that women have always led in community, family and nation.

For over 15 years, Global Academics, has taken African American groups abroad to immerse themselves in Black nations as a means of learning about self, community, heritage, and culture. The primary group of youth selected are those who have not had the opportunity to have a passport nor travel internationally, but whose personal and leadership development would benefit from a globalized experience. [Research shows](#) that studying abroad increases college success rates, g.p.a.'s, and helps students maintain focus on achieving goals. When combined with leadership development that is focused on the understanding of the way race, gender, and power impact the lives of Black girls and women, study abroad can be that much more impactful. Global education leadership development means that Black girls and women learn about self through workshops and international travel to predominantly Black nations to deepen immersion learning and expand global identity. Global Academics is thus introducing our Black Girls: Race, Gender, Power, and Global Education Summer Institute 2025 (June 15 – June 30, 2025).

Beginning January 2025, up to 10 Black female Oakland Unified School District graduates currently attending area colleges/universities will be identified to participate in a summer intensive Global Education Summer Institute that has three major components.

1. Leadership development workshops about race, gender, and Black Girls and Women Power,
2. Global Immersion Learning in Spain,
3. Engage in a related social justice project upon their return.

# WHY THE BLACK MOORS OF SPAIN FOR BLACK GIRLS AND WOMEN?

Learning about the Black Moors of Spain can be particularly beneficial for African American young women for several reasons:

- *Cultural Heritage:* Understanding the contributions of the Black Moors to European history highlights the rich, diverse heritage of African peoples. It helps reclaim narratives that has been overlooked, marginalized, and/or erased.
- *Empowerment:* Studying the achievements of the Black Moors, such as advancements in science, architecture, and philosophy, can inspire pride and a sense of identity. It showcases the strength and influence of African cultures throughout history.
- *Historical Context:* It provides context for the African diaspora and the interconnectedness of cultures, emphasizing that the African presence is not limited by geography but is a global narrative.
- *Critical Thinking:* Engaging with complex historical narratives encourages critical thinking and analysis, skills that are essential in academia and life.
- *Community and Solidarity:* Understanding shared histories can foster a sense of community and solidarity among young women of African descent, linking them to a broader narrative of resistance and resilience.



# OUR INSTITUTE CURRICULUM



## KNOWLEDGE OF SELF – WHO ARE YOU?

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Using African culturally based foundational thought and practice participants will engage in an exploration of self to review strengths, interests, communication styles, and areas where leadership growth is desired.

## OUR AFRICAN HERITAGE – WHO ARE WE?

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Attaining knowledge of one's history is critical for Black Girls who are in the process of developing leadership skills. Participants will learn about African and African American female leaders to explore their contributions, leadership styles, and strategies. Importantly, through a historical lens they will examine African conceptions of gender as a means of understanding Black female power.



## BLACK GIRL AND WOMEN SISTERHOOD – HOW DO WE BUILD IT?

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When Black girls and women support each other, and work together amazing things are accomplished. However, in today's world, social media and the context of race and gender constructs impede sisterhood. Participants will work to define, build, and strengthen sisterhood as a means of building self, community, and ensuring a network of support.



## **BLACK GIRLS AND WOMEN AS WARRIORS AND LEADERS – WHAT IS OUR ROLE?**

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Participants will explore the racial and gender context we are currently experiencing in Oakland/the U.S. so that they can identify what social issues they are most passionate about impacting. They will dialogue and debate strategies to address social justice issues facing the Black community. The objective is to identify a specific social justice issue that this new sisterhood of female youth leaders will address as the final step of the Institute.

## **BLACK PERSONAL AND COLLECTIVE PROTECTION – WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?**

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Black girls and women can experience exploitation, violence, family trauma and more. Learning to heal and protect themselves from trauma becomes an important part of leadership development for self and community. Participants will learn about the importance of radical self-love and the means for protecting themselves through in-person self-defense workshops that are based on African and African diasporic martial arts.

## **I AM BECAUSE WE ARE – SHIFTING OUR POWER TO HEAL, LEAD AND MOVE OUR COMMUNITY**

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Post-travel, the Global Education Summer Institute sisterhood will implement their newly enhanced leadership skills and implement their community action plan to address a social justice issue in Oakland.



# Black Moors of Spain: *Itinerary Description*



## Seville

We will visit Seville, the capital city of Andalusia. You will spend time admiring the Plaza de España with its fascinating blend of Art Deco and Black Moorish architectural style built for the 1929 Ibero-American Exposition. This semi-circular complex boasts monumental staircases, fountains and a beautifully tiled alcove for each of Spain's provinces.

We will visit the Alcazar, the Royal Palace built inside a Moorish fort. We will visit the landmark of Seville which is the cathedral minaret "La Giralda", built in the 12th century. It was the former minaret of the Almohad Mosque. The climb to the top of "La Giralda" is a must for its great views of the surrounding areas. After visiting the Golden Tower in Seville, we will go on the famous Seville Boat Cruise along the Guadalquivir River, where you will see the many sites of Seville such as the San Telmo Palace, Maria Luisa Park and sail beneath the six classic and modern bridges of the World Expo-92 – most emblematic of Spain. In addition, we will engage in:

- Panel discussion with immigrant Africans living in Seville now
- University lecture on the history of the African presence in Spain
- Black Girl Leadership discussions and trainings

## Cordoba

We will visit Cordoba. This elegant city was once the capital city of the Black Moorish kingdom of Andalusia. As a result of this, it boasts the "Great Mosque" or "Mezquita", one of the most fascinating buildings in the world and a UNESCO World Heritage Site. This building was built in the 8th century and was the largest and most beautiful mosque outside of the Middle East and it is now the Cathedral of Cordoba. In addition to the Great Mosque, you will cross the famous Puente Romano Bridge and visit the picturesque Jewish quarter to explore the labyrinth of winding narrow streets, shaded flower-filled courtyards and attractive squares. Visit the Synagogue, the only one remaining in Andalusia, dating from 1315. The walls are adorned with plaster work of plant motifs and epigraphs referring to the psalms, and Song of Songs. In addition, we will engage in:

- Andalusian cooking class to make paella and traditional salmorejo
- Guided tour of each site to learn about the history and culture of Moorish Spain



- Visit the Flamenco museum and performance and learn about the African influence of this unique and powerful form of dance
- Black Girl Leadership discussions and trainings

## Granada

We will visit the city of charm and mystery, 'Granada' which is situated at the foot of the Sierra Nevada mountains. Granada was the last Black Moorish stronghold in Spain which was conquered in 1492. We will visit The Alhambra Palace – the most visited monument of Spain and the best conserved example of African Islamic architecture in Spain. The Alhambra Palace was built by the Black Moors in the 13th and 14th centuries on a hill overlooking Granada and has been added to over the centuries to become a magnificent complex of pink stone courtyards, pools, fountains, grand halls and patios, alongside the beautiful Generalife Gardens. In addition, we will engage in:

- Rhythm and dance class – Flamenco
- Rio Verdo river tour – a walk with nature
- Street Art Tour with artist Hadrien
- Black Girl Leadership discussions and trainings

## Nerja - Southern Coast of Spain

The placid and picturesque municipality on the Costa del Sol near Spain's southern tip has a history as rich as any. Its ancient past is evident in its most popular tourist site: a sprawling network of prehistoric limestone caves believed to reach all the way to Grenada. One cave even forms a natural amphitheater and is regularly used for concerts. Other stops include Iglesias El Salvador, a church built in the late 15th century with Moorish-influenced architecture, and the Balcón de Europa, a stunning sea view vantage once used to scope out British invaders and pirates.

- Guided walking/hiking tour on the famed Camino del Rey
- Black Girl Leadership Beach Day
- Black Girl Leadership discussions and trainings





## Dr. Siri Brown, Founder And CEO, Global Academics

Global Academics was founded by Dr. Siri Brown who has been teaching and leading tours for over 20 years. She is a professor of African American and Ethnic Studies at Merritt College (retired) and U.C. Berkeley. She is a celebrated teacher who has impacted the lives of hundreds of students by helping them learn about the greatness of African/African American people and the critical way that race, gender and other constructs impedes our sense of self and community.

Dr. Brown holds a B.A. in Psychology and Ethnic Studies from the University of Washington, an M.A. in Black Studies from the Ohio State University, and a Ph.D. in U.S. History with an emphasis in Early American, African American and Women's history also from the Ohio State University. Dr. Brown is a two time Fulbright recipient for international projects in Brazil and South Africa. **Her research centers on the racialized legal and social resistance to violence against women.**

Her areas of expertise and passion are on African communities in the diaspora and the means in which African people have used culture and resistance as a means of maintaining self-determination. Equally important to her are the way African cultural traditions have blended with indigenous and colonial cultures as is evident in the powerful influence African culture continues to have in Latin America.

As a guide, Dr. Brown has developed in depth relationships with amazingly talented and famed Black artists, activists, academics, and community leaders and has fostered those relationships over years. Her contacts make her tours more personal and the learning more in depth. Her aim is to create "learning that lasts a lifetime" as she sees immersion travel as the most powerful way to come into a respectful understanding of traditional knowledge and culture.





## **Dr. Linda James Myers**

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Renowned African Centered  
Psychologist, Author, And Healer

Professor Linda Myers specializes in psychology and culture; moral and spiritual identity development; healing practices and psychotherapeutic processes; and, intersections of race, gender and class. Internationally known for her work in the development of a theory of Optimal Psychology, Dr. Myers has conducted lectures and trainings England, South Africa, Ghana, and Jamaica. She is the author of numerous articles, book chapters, and five books, including: *Understanding an Afrocentric World View: Introduction to an Optimal Psychology*; and, most recently, co-editor of *Recentering Culture and Knowledge in Conflict Resolution Practice*. Dr Myers' Oneness model of human functioning offers a transdisciplinary focus that builds on insights from the wisdom tradition of African deep thought and converges with modern physics and Eastern philosophies.

Her current research interests comprise the application of that model to a broad range of issues from health and education to business ethics.

Dr. Myers has received numerous honors and awards for excellence in research and scholarship, including being named Distinguished Psychologist by the Association of Black Psychologists; the Bethune/Woodson Award for Outstanding Contributions in the Development of Promotion of Black Studies from the National Council of Black Studies; Oni Award by the International Black Women's Congress; and, the Building to Eternity Award from the Association for the Study of Classical African Civilization, among others. Professor Myers is a recipient of the O.S.U. College of Arts and Sciences Outstanding Teaching Award, and a past president of the Association of Black Psychologists.



## **Nehanda Imara**

Awarded Community Leader,  
Organizer, And Mentor

Nehanda Imara has been an Oakland resident for over 40 years. Nehanda is a dedicated activist, organizer, educator, and adjunct teacher for African American and Environmental Studies at Merritt College. Nehanda created the first Environmental Racism/Justice course at the Peralta Community College District. Read more about Nehanda's accomplishments in the Examiner.com article: "Nehanda Imara, Oakland's mother of environmental justice."

Nehanda was an organizer with Communities for a Better Environment for from 2007 - 2017. In that role she engaged residents and youth in fighting environmental racism and for clean more sustainable environmental policies and programs.

As an organizer for CBE, her outreach and recruitment work helped build a strong core resident leaders and a broad support base of youth, students, and community partners in the Oakland area. She organized the first CBE 'Love Yo Mama Earth Day' in 2009 in collaboration with community partners in deep East Oakland, a community suffering deeply from the present global ecological crisis, bringing information and resources to youth and residents that typically lack access.

Nehanda was part of the leadership team at the inception of East Oakland Building Healthy Communities (EOBHC) in 2009. Nehanda served on the interim steering committee, and EOBHC manager during her tenure with this initiative. She helped lead the initiative for over 10 years, shepherding its implementation for each phase of the project.

Leaving EOBHC in 2021, Nehanda joined the Black Cultural Zone as the Community Engagement Lead. In April 2022, she semi-retired and continues to consult with the BCZ to create a Liberation Education Leadership Program.

Nehanda is a Pan-Africanist and as such, has been taking college and high-school students to Ghana, West Africa since 1996. She serves as Co-coordinator of Merritt's "Black Consciousness Raising Tours of Africa and the African Diaspora. Nehanda has traveled to over 10 African countries as well as the Caribbean and Central America.



### **Dr. Regina Stanback Stroud**

Master Educational Leader, DEI Expert,  
And Critical Race Theory Writer

Co-founder of The Village Demands, Dr. Stanback Stroud, served more than 35 years as an educator. She began her career in education as a professor of nursing at Rancho Santiago College (now Santa Ana College). She later become the Mission College Dean of Workforce and Economic Development, Skyline College Vice President of Instruction, and President, before being appointed Chancellor of the Peralta Community College District. Her successful tenure as College President included leadership in establishment of the Skyline College Promise, the Equity Institute, the SparkPoint Center, and the Center for Transformative Teaching and Learning—as well as capital improvements, a new baccalaureate degree, diversification of faculty and staff, and successful fundraising.

Named President Emerita by the San Mateo County Community College District Board of Trustees, Dr. Stanback Stroud is highly regarded for her work on student equity and diversity; education/industry collaboratives; economic empowerment and anti-poverty strategies; community workforce and economic development; and regional and state educational policy. Dr. Stanback Stroud served as the President of the State Academic Senate for California Community Colleges.

Dr. Stanback Stroud served as a presidential appointee on the President's Advisory Council on Financial Capability for Young Americans for President Barack Obama. In recognition of her work on equity, the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges established the Regina Stanback- Stroud Diversity Award, a state-wide award that honors faculty whose work demonstrates a commitment to diversity, equity and social justice. In recognition of her leadership, the Western Regional Council on Black American Affairs established the Dr. Regina Stanback Stroud Leadership Achievement Award, awarded to individuals committed to leadership excellence and social justice.

Dr. Stanback Stroud has a rich history of board service in philanthropy, including serving on the boards of the Peralta Colleges Foundation, the San Bruno Community Foundation, the San Mateo Community College Foundation, and the United Way of the Bay Area. Dr. Stanback Stroud currently serves as a board member of Base11, a non-profit company that partners with industry, academia, and philanthropy to deploy a STEM Accelerator model. Dr. Stroud also serves as a member of the Board of Directors of Sierra Nevada Journeys, a nonprofit organization that delivers innovative outdoor, science-based education programs for youth to develop critical thinking skills and to inspire natural resource stewardship. Dr. Stanback Stroud also has served as a Visiting Assistant Professor in the Mills College Educational Leadership Doctoral Program and as an adjunct professor in the San Francisco State University Educational Leadership Doctoral Program. Her areas of scholarship include the intersection of critical race theory, black feminist thought and women's leadership. Dr. Stanback Stroud has published works on women of color in leadership, workforce and economic development, and antipoverty strategies in the community colleges. She holds a Doctorate and Master's Degree in Educational Leadership from Mills College, a Master's Degree in Human Relations from Golden Gate University and a Bachelor's Degree in Nursing Sciences from Howard University in Washington DC.

Thank you



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