

## **Lesson Plans for: African American History Month Calendar Honorees**

### **Lesson #1**

#### **For Grades 9th-10th**

**Title:** Biographical Poem Creations

#### **Standards:**

**RL. 10.4.** Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in the text, including figurative and connotative meanings; analyze the cumulative impact of specific word choices on meaning and tone (e.g., how the language evokes a sense of time and place; how it sets a formal or informal tone).

**L.10.3.** Apply knowledge of language to understand how language functions in different contexts, to make effective choices for meaning or style, and to comprehend more fully when reading or listening.

**W.10.2.** Write informative/explanatory texts to examine and convey complex ideas, concepts, and information clearly and accurately through the effective selection, organization, and analysis of content.

**W.10.2b.** Develop the topic with well-chosen, relevant, and sufficient facts, extended definitions, concrete details, quotations, or other information and examples appropriate to the audience's knowledge of the topic.

**W.10.4.** Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience.

**W.10.7.** Conduct short as well as more sustained research projects to answer a question (including a self-generated question) or solve a problem; narrow or broaden the inquiry when appropriate; synthesize multiple sources on the subject, demonstrating understanding of the subject under investigation.

**W.10.8.** Gather relevant information from multiple authoritative print and digital sources, using advanced searches effectively; assess the usefulness of each source in answering the research question; integrate information into the text selectively to maintain the flow of ideas, avoiding plagiarism and following a standard format for citation.

**W.10.9.** Draw evidence from literary or informational texts to support analysis, reflection, and research.

#### **Objectives:**

##### **The student will be able to:**

- Synthesize information gathered from research to create a biographical delineation of the life of the subject.
- Analyze form and style in nonfiction works, including personal essays, autobiographies, biographies, memoirs, speeches, editorials, and magazine and newspaper articles.
- Determine a theme or central idea of a text and analyze in detail its development over the course of the text.
- Interpret devices of figurative language
- Organize written works using pre-writing techniques, discussions, graphic organizers, models, and outlines.
- Demonstrate an understanding of the characteristics of poetry.

## **Biographical Poetry Assignment**

**Title: The Life and times of: Dr. David Holmes Swinton, Ph. D**

**Notes:** This lesson is composed of two activities.

**Duration:**

- 2-3 Days for classes are scheduled in 90 minute blocks.
- 2-5 Days for classes scheduled in 55 minute blocks

**Activity One:**

- The teacher will review the honorees listed in the 2015 AT&T African American History Calendar.
- The teacher will lead a discussion on the relevance of each contributor to the overall construct of South Carolina with an emphasis on Dr. David Holmes Swinton, Ph. D.
- The teacher will provide copies of “A Biographical Profile of Dr. David Holmes Swinton, Ph. D”.

**Materials:**

- Copies of “A Biographical Profile of Dr. David Holmes Swinton, Ph. D”.
- Cornell Note Template

**Guided Practice:** The teacher will assist students with the reading of the article.

**Independent Study:** Students will use the Cornell Note Template to highlight key points and details about Dr. Swinton.

Students will create a one paragraph summary detailing what they’ve learned that they find most pertinent and relevant from Dr. Swinton’s life.

**Assessment:** Students will share their information with the class in whole group discussion.

**Closure:** Exit slip: Students will complete exit slips: One sentence detailing one thing they’ve learned about Dr. Swinton, and one sentence reflecting how the information can be used in everyday life.

**Activity Two:**

- Students will use the information that they gathered from their summations to create a bio-poem about Dr. Swinton.

- The teacher will conduct a mini-lecture to review the 2015 honorees.
- The teacher will direct a mini-lecture addressing the information gathered from the exit slips.
- The teacher will introduce the idea of the bio-poem creation.
- The teacher will establish the relevance of the project with constructed Q&A.

**Publishing:** Upon completion, the teacher will punch a hole in each creation and suspend them from the classroom ceiling for an artistic mobile effect.

**Materials:**

- Copies of “A Biographical Profile of Dr. David Holmes Swinton, Ph. D”.
- Students’ writing assignments: Completed Cornell notes and paragraphed summaries)
- Bio- Poem template
- Construction paper
- Markers/Colored Pencils
- Magazines
- Scissors
- Glue
- Hole puncher
- String/wire

**Directions:**

- Today you will try your hand at becoming a Poet!
- You will create a customized poem reflecting the life of the subject assigned.
- Use the information that you gathered from the article, your notes, and your paragraphed summary to complete the Bio-Poem template.
- Use the art supplies to decorate your poem.
- You may cut out images from the magazines that symbolize your interpretations.
- Be creative
- Remember, your poem must include the following information about Dr. David Holmes Swinton Ph. D:
- Educational background and Degrees earned
- Occupation
- Accomplishments and achievements: One professional, one personal
- Agencies/Organizations/Causes he supports
- What you learned and how you can use it to improve your life and the community around you.

**Assessment:** Completed poems, Teacher Observation, Progress Monitoring, and structured Q&A.

**Closure:** Students will present what they created and explain what they've gained from the experience. Students will also establish how they can use this information to enhance the quality of their lives and the lives of those around them

**Project Points:**

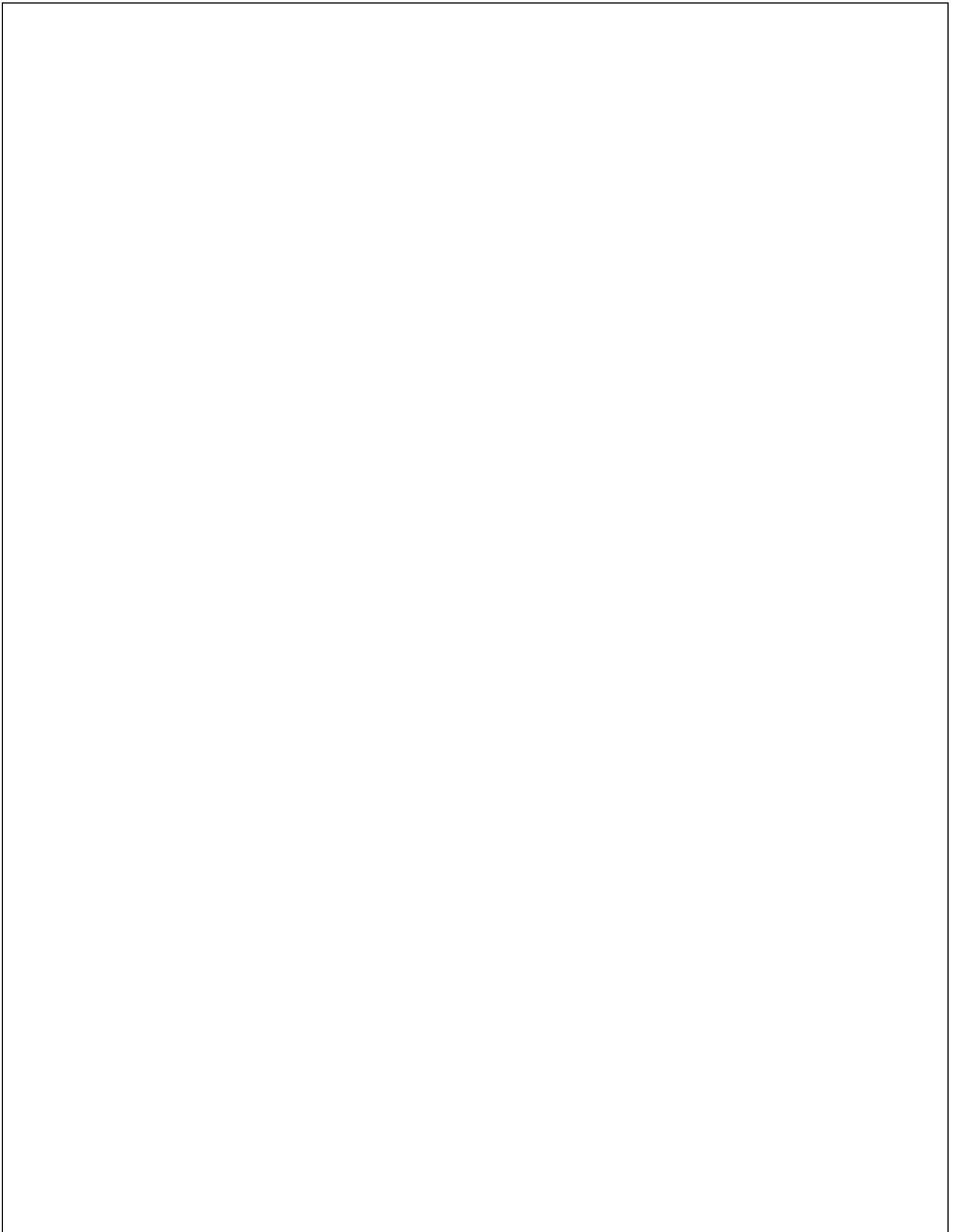
|                      |                |
|----------------------|----------------|
| Title                | 10 pts         |
| Inclusion of Facts   | 20 pts         |
| All elements present | 20 pts         |
| Originality          | 20 pts         |
| Creativity           | 20 pts         |
| Illustrations        | 10 pts         |
| Total points         | <u>100/100</u> |

**Developed by:**

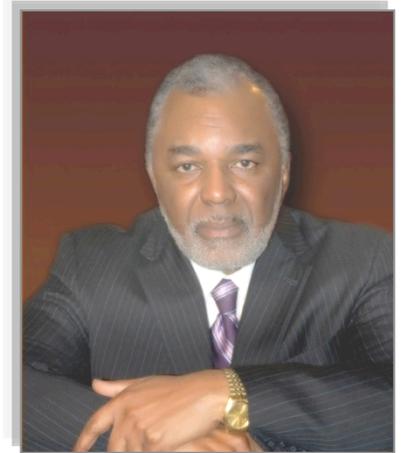
Nicole Galashaw

Wilson High School

Florence School District 1



# A Biographical Profile of Dr. David Holmes Swinton



Dr. David Holmes Swinton is the 13<sup>th</sup> president of Benedict College in Columbia, South Carolina. As president, Dr. Swinton oversees all areas and departments of the 141-year-old Institution with a record student enrollment that exceeds 3,140, the highest enrollment in the College's history.

Benedict College's enrollment has more than doubled since the arrival of Dr. Swinton in 1994. The College has experienced a dramatic increase in its male student populations going against the national trend of recruiting African-American males scholars. As a result of this tremendous growth, Benedict has one of the largest undergraduate populations of the 20 private institutions in South Carolina, and has been ranked the fourth largest HBCU in The College Fund/UNCF network. Recently, Benedict College was ranked one of the Top 10 Colleges in the nation to promote social mobility, cutting edge research and community service by *Washington Monthly* magazine.

Born in New Haven, Connecticut, Dr. Swinton moved with his family to Timmonsville, South Carolina at an early age where he attended the Brockington School. He moved to New York City at 12 years of age and graduated from Thomas Jefferson High School in Brooklyn. In 1968, he received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Economics from New York University; in 1971, he was awarded a Master of Arts degree in Economics from Harvard University; and in 1975 he was awarded a Doctor of Philosophy degree in Economics from Harvard University.

Dr. Swinton is recognized for his academic achievements, his intellectual excellence, and his devotion to higher education. Dr. Swinton's professional experience includes seven-year tenure as Dean of the School of Business at Jackson State University where he led the successful effort to gain AACSB accreditation for the Business School. Prior to his appointment at Jackson State, he was Director of the Southern Center of Studies in Public Policy and Professor of Economics at Clark College in Atlanta, Georgia.

Dr. Swinton is renowned for his scholarly writings; most notably his analysis of the economic status of African Americans. His economic analysis was published in the National Urban League's *The State of Black America* in 1983 and each year from 1989 through 1993. His works have also been

published in such professional journals as the *American Economics Review*, *The Review of Black Political Economy*, *Minority Youth Employment*, and *Public Administration Review*, *Journal of Urban Analysis*, and *Business and Society*.

In 2004, Dr. Swinton researched and wrote about The Economic Impact on African-Americans After Brown which was published in “...*And Miles to Go Before I Sleep*” by The Institute for Public Service and Policy Research of the University of South Carolina in celebration of the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Brown v. Board of Education. The landmark decision ended segregation in public schools in SC and the nation.

In 1998, Dr. Swinton became the first African-American Chairman of the Greater Columbia Chamber of Commerce Board in the organization’s 92-year history. In 1999, Dr. Swinton helped organize a group of 50 investors to create South Carolina Community Bank, to preserve the only minority-owned bank in South Carolina. Dr. Swinton has served as Economic Advisor to the National Urban League since 1980, and has been a member of *Black Enterprise Magazine’s* Board of Economists since 1990.

His honors and awards include *Phi Beta Kappa*, *Coat of Arms Society*, and *Honors in Economics from New York University*, *Ford Foundation Fellow*, *Graduate Prize Fellowship from Harvard*, the *Order of the Palmetto*, and an *Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters* for the University of Bridgeport. Recently, he received the *Luther Wesley Smith Award* which is occasionally given to individuals for distinguished service in strengthening college or seminary programs. In 2005, Dr. Swinton’s received the *Samuel Z. Westerfield Award* by the National Economic Association of African American Economist. The award is presented to an African-American economist with an outstanding record in the economics profession, institutional leadership and service to the community. In 2007, Dr. Swinton was inducted into the *South Carolina Black Hall of Fame*.

Dr. Swinton believes that students at Benedict are the school’s most valued constituents and its most important product. To help ensure their success, he revised the student advising system and instituted a comprehensive retention program. The College has been named one of the *Top Ten Producers of Physics Bachelor’s Degrees among African Americans in the United States*, in the nation since 2005 by the American Institute of Physics. Under Dr. Swinton’s direction, the emphasis on the educational programs has led to the improvement of student performance and infusion of state-of-the-art computer technology throughout the campus.

Under Dr. Swinton’s leadership several programs have received national accreditations including The Recreation and Leisure Services Program which received accreditation from the National Recreation and Park and The Office of Teacher Education was accredited by the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) along with the Environmental Health Science

Program which a was accredited by the National Environmental Health and Science and Protection Accreditation Council (EHAC). Additionally the national accreditation for the Colleges Social Work Department and the Benedict College Child Development Center were renewed. In 2009, The School of Business and Economics was awarded the initial accreditation of its Business Programs by The Association of Collegiate Business Schools and Programs (ASBSP).

As President, he increased the number of majors from 21 in 1994 to 30 in 2010 and restructured the College into six schools of study. As for the extracurricular aspect, Dr. Swinton returned the Tiger football program after a 29-year absence, revived the marching band, as well as started new golf and tennis programs.

Since assuming the presidency of Benedict College, he has led an impressive program to improve the academic and physical environment of the College. He has overseen the restoration of two of the College's historical landmarks-- Morgan and Pratt Halls, the renovation of several existing buildings, and the acquisition of land for future expansion. A new 45,000 square foot state-of-the-art student center, along with mini dormitory, a 350-bed Honors Dormitory, a 230-bed upperclassmen dormitory, acquired three apartment complexes, and a 300-space parking facility have also been added to the scenic campus as well as over 110 acres of land.

Under his direction the college has implemented the first of three phases to develop a multi-million-dollar state-of-the-art sports complex, which features an 11,000-seat football stadium as its centerpiece. Situated on a newly acquired 60 acres of land, the complex will also include an outdoor track, baseball and softball fields, tennis courts, a soccer field, and a football practice field. To the amazement of the community, Dr. Swinton turned a troublesome "honky-tonk" after hour's club into a modern community Health and Fitness Center.

The College completed the construction of its first Administration building in July, 2001. In 2003, the College also opened the gates to a charming Community Park featuring a children's play area along with tennis and basketball courts adjacent to the College's Honor's Dormitory.

In 2006, Benedict renovated and open new facility to house the new Continuing Education Program for evening and weekend Programs. Through several federal grants he has initiated the renovation of several dilapidated houses in the community and built a Business Development Center which helps develop 10 small businesses and to support economic growth in the Midlands community.

Along with the physical development of the College's surrounding community, Dr. Swinton has been instrumental in administering the College's community development programs as well. With

programs such as the Department of Labor's Welfare-to-Work, it enables Benedict College to create partnerships with local businesses and provide jobs and training to program participants.

Among other programs is the Freddie Mac Initiative, which has two major goals: to provide Freddie Mac with information concerning racial minorities' perceptions of credit and to improve the credit worthiness of African Americans. In 2008, the Benedict College Business Development Center partnered with the *FDIC Money Smart Program* to teach students and community members how to understanding credit, personal budgets and assessing the cost and benefits of consumer and home loans.

In 2008, Office of Institutional Advancement received a \$1 million grant from the Kresge Foundation in support of fundraising through The College Fund. The grant is designed to help the College create the infrastructure to effectively fundraise from private and public sources with a special emphasis on alumni and trustee financial support. In 1009, the Benedict College began building Project SUSTAIN- Sustainable Urban Services to Advance Independent Neighborhoods) with the creation of the Benedict College Community Learning Center. The Project was partially funded by a \$600,000 U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

In 2010, Benedict received a \$1.18 million grant from the Department of Energy which will be used for research relating to radioactive materials cleanup, as well as for the creation of a South Carolina HBCU Center of Excellence in Radiation Safety Training. Benedict will also establish a Bachelor of Science program in environmental engineering and to increase the pool of minority students in the field.

For Dr. Swinton, Benedict College is a place where "Learning to Be the Best: A Power for Good Into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century" is more than a slogan -- it characterizes his commitment to quality and continuous improvement of the College and its surrounding community. Dr. Swinton is married to the former Patricia Lewis. They are proud parents of six adult children and grandparents of 13 grandchildren.

**Source:**

[www.benedict.edu/cms/sites/default/files/files/bc\\_exec\\_admin/...](http://www.benedict.edu/cms/sites/default/files/files/bc_exec_admin/...)

# Bio Poem

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(Subject's first and last name)

**Is**

---

(Four descriptive adjectives reflecting his profession)

**Graduate of**

---

(Schools attended, Degrees earned)

**Accomplisher of**

---

(Three achievements, or accolades, or awards he has earned)

**Who supported**

---

(Social or ethical, or educational organizations he is an advocate of)

**Who inspires**

---

(Three groups that can benefit from learning aspects of his life story)

**Who has developed/provided**

---

(Products, projects, or services he is affiliated with creating)

**Who has hopes for**

---

(Goals or, dreams, or visions he has/had for the future)

**Whose story has helped me to understand**

---

(Something new you've learned that you can apply to enhance the quality of your life)

