Why Celebrate Black History:

Dr. Carter G. Woodson, a son of a slave who became a Harvard-trained historian spent his life working to educate all people about the vast contributions made by black men and women throughout history.

His hopes to raise awareness of African American's contributions to civilization was realized when he and the organization he founded, the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History (ASNLH), conceived and announced Negro History Week in 1925. The event was first celebrated during a week in February 1926 that encompassed the birthdays of both Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass.

In 1976, the Negro History Week was expanded to a month and the then reigning President Gerald R. Ford urged Americans to “seize the opportunity to honor the too-often neglected accomplishments of black Americans in every area of endeavor throughout our history.”

SFSC recognizes Janet Emerson Bashen who was the first African-American woman to hold a U.S. Patent for a software invention. Bashen’s LinkLine software is used by the United States Equal Employment Opportunity Commission to track claims, manage documents, and compile related reports.

Bashen was born February 12, 1957 in Mansfield, Ohio. She attended Alabama A&M University, later moving to Houston, Texas where she currently resides. According to an online bio, Bashen’s background is in Legal Studies and Government Affairs with time spent studying at the University of Houston and Rice University.

Bashen is the founder, President and CEO of the Bashen Corporation, a human resources consulting firm. The company was formed in 1994 from Bashen's kitchen and grew by 52 percent between 1997 and 2001 according to Wikipedia. The business has been recognized by national firms and outlets for its solid practices and growth which led to Bashen being named one of the most influential business figures in the county.

In 2000, Bashen testified before Congress on civil rights and employee misconduct investigations being exempt from the Fair Credit Reporting Act. Bashen worked alongside Rep. Shelia Jackson Lee on getting that portion of the legislation addressed.

In 2003, Bashen received the Pinnacle Award by the Houston Citizens Chamber of Commerce and in 2012, Bashen was added to Ebony magazine’s “Power 100” list.

Bashen credits the support of her parents to her success

http://blackamericaweb.com/category/little-known-black-history-facts/