What does Black History Month mean to you? Growing up in Caribbean America, my parents encouraged my siblings and me to celebrate Black history as early as we could. My parents wanted me to know that the community values in the United States, and throughout the world, and by sharing this knowledge with me, they hoped to ensure that I would grow up with a strong understanding of our history and how it has shaped the present.

Growing up in Boston as a Boston Public School student, the curriculum in February always focused on Black history. Depending on your teacher, you might receive supplemental lessons about Black History throughout the year. These school-based experiences and interactions with friends taught me about Black History specifically to the United States. In addition to school-based and familial learning, my parents made sure to involve my siblings and me in several community activities. These activities honored Black history in their programming, which usually consisted of a celebration to honor all those who came before us locally, regionally, nationally, and beyond. As I have grown, my practice has been to celebrate Black History every day. To try to understand, appreciate, and honor the contributions of the Black community.

What is a practice you believe would advance the Black Community? Honesty and transparency are crucial in building meaningful relationships. It is essential to create a space where people can share their experiences and be heard. This can be achieved through open and honest dialogue, where everyone feels valued and respected. Accountability is also important in advancing the Black Community. It is essential to hold ourselves and others accountable for our actions and words. This can be done by promoting a culture of integrity and responsibility.

How can academic institutions create meaningful relationships with the Black community? Academic institutions can create meaningful relationships with the Black community by engaging with the students in a meaningful and authentic way. They should value the importance of creating space for representation in all areas of their lives. This can be achieved by creating opportunities for students to share their experiences and perspectives. Academic institutions can also encourage students to share their stories and experiences. This can be done through workshops, panels, and other forms of interactive programming.

How have you commemorated Black History Month throughout your life? Being a member of the Black community has always been a part of my life. I grew up in a household where education was emphasized, and my parents made sure to teach me about our history. As I have grown, I continue to honor those conversations. To take a journey into the history of Black people across the diaspora and honor those contributions to our culture.

How do you think Black History Month should be celebrated? Black History Month should be celebrated in a way that recognizes and celebrates the contributions of Black people. This can be achieved by creating opportunities for students to share their stories and experiences. This can be done through workshops, panels, and other forms of interactive programming. Additionally, this can be achieved by creating opportunities for students to share their stories and experiences.