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Reunion**

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A Data News Weekly Exclusive

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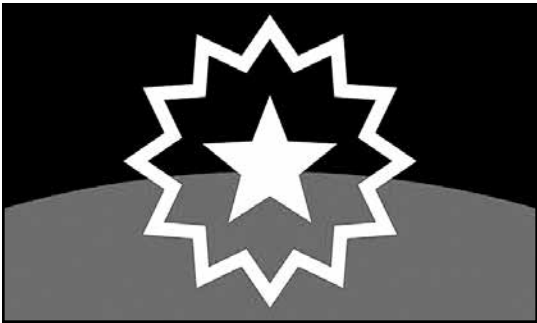


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Celebrating Juneteenth



Juneteenth is an important holiday, not just for African Americans, but the entire nation. One that continues to struggle with how to guarantee justice, fairness and equality to all of its citizens.



Data News Staff Edited Report

Juneteenth is now a national holiday in the United States. It commemorates the emancipation of enslaved people in the United States. Data News Weekly shares a brief history of this most meaningful holiday for our nation.

What is Juneteenth?

On June 19, 1865, shortly after the end of the Civil War, Union Troops arrived to take control of Galveston, Texas. This is when the remaining enslaved Blacks in Texas finally learned of their freedom, nearly three years after the Emancipation Proclamation. The day became a holiday known as Juneteenth, a portmanteau of “June” and “19th.” Sometimes called Juneteenth Independence Day, Freedom Day or Emancipation Day, the holiday celebrated on June 19th commemorates the emancipa-

tion of enslaved people in the United States. It was first celebrated in Texas. In 1872, Black ministers and businessmen in Houston purchased 10 acres of land and created Emancipation Park for the Annual Juneteenth gathering. Over the years, Juneteenth continued to be celebrated in Texas and spread throughout the South. But the day is becoming increasingly well-known across the country, and many state and local governments now recognize Juneteenth as an official holiday.

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DATA NEWS WEEKLY

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How Do People Celebrate Juneteenth?

To commemorate Emancipation Day, friends and family gather to celebrate the legacy of resilience and acknowledge the ongoing struggle through marches, prayers, and other remembrances. During gatherings, participants often picnic with traditional soul food dishes, one of the nation's most identifiable culinary traditions.

Today, soul food is associated with comfort food, but it was born out of struggle and necessity. Enslaved African people turned meager, low-quality rations into delicious fried, boiled, roasted, and baked dishes. In the process, they preserved old food traditions and created new ones. Delving into the history of soul food and Juneteenth is an exploration of Black culture, values, and traditions.

The Red Trinity—barbecue, watermelon, and red soda—is at the heart of the meal. But no Juneteenth menu is complete without traditional side dishes and desserts like collard greens, potato salad, cornbread pudding, peach cobbler, and banana pudding.



In cities across America, there will be many celebrations of Juneteenth. These include, parades, family reunions, workshops, and picnics. All with the intent of celebrating freedom, family and community.

This traditional cooking is an ode to history and heritage, and perhaps no region has had more impact on America's culinary history than the South.

Why Is Juneteenth Food Red?

According to culinary historian and food writer Michael Twitty, the popularity of red foods

in the community might date back to the enslaved Yoruba and Kongo who were brought over to Texas in the 19th Century. Both cultures consider the color red as "the embodiment of spiritual power and transformation," and enslavement narratives from Texas even contain stories of an African Ancestor being lured using red flannel cloth.

Historian Fred Opie theorizes that this could be traced back to Asante and Yoruba Special Occasion Celebrations, which included "offering up the blood of animals (especially the red blood of white birds and white goats) to their ancestors and Gods."

There's also another theory—namely, that the color represents bloodshed. Lynda Jackson Cony-

ers, Publisher of the Milwaukee Times, says that the city's signature Juneteenth strawberry soda and other red foods "symbolize the blood that was shed by the slaves."

However, you choose to celebrate, remember the journey of those who have come before us. As we continue our fight for freedom, justice, and equality in America.

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SUNDAY, JUNE 18TH

LSU Men's Baseball Team Headed to the College World Series

By Fleur De Lis

LSU is on a winning streak this year. The football team blew out Purdue in the Florida Citrus Bowl 63-7. The Lady Tigers won the NCAA Women's Basketball Championship, led by All-American Angel Reese. Now the men's baseball team will be playing in the College World Series.

The Tigers will begin to play on Saturday night in Omaha, Nebraska. They will play in a nationally televised game that will air on ESPN.

The Tigers have had a great season, earning a berth into the series by sweeping the Kentucky Wildcats in the Baton Rouge Super Regional, with an 8-3 victory Sunday night.

Fans of LSU that span statewide and beyond are excited about the possibility of another National Title coming to the Tigers, who have had a dominant year in multiple sports programs.



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HAPPY
JUNETEENTH
From Data News Weekly

Who Said You Can't

African American Women in Science



Diva Dionne Character
Female Empowerment
Columnist

Gisele Haralson, Director, Writer and Author, has awakened something in all of us with her masterful lineup of incredible African American Women in Science documentary, which presents the stories of Dr. Alice Pendleton a NASA Space Research Scientist, Three of the First Black Nurses hired at the Baton Rouge General Hospital in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, NASA Engineer



Gisele Haralson, Writer/Producer, Who Said You Can't: African American In Science

Dr. K. Renee Horton, Viral Researcher and Doctoral Candidate at Tulane University, Antoinette Bell Kareem, Educator in Science, Katherine Michele Sanders, and Dr. Cordel Parris, the first African American Female Cardiologist in the State of Louisiana owning her own practice. These women understood the struggle of being the only woman, as well as the only woman of color, in a predominantly male industry where often their opinions

and suggestions were sometimes second guessed while working in oppressed conditions, some during the Civil Rights Movement and those who can see the need today. This film opens the door to the importance of women in STEM. It gives us hope and strength to continue while understanding that sometimes our purpose is greater than who we are as women who can still rise in the midst of disadvantages. Who Said You Can't: African American Women In Science will change the course of our history for the next generation of women who dare to dream in science. Dionne Character can be reached at www.characterhollywood.com

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JUNETEENTH

is a federal holiday in the United States that commemorates the end of slavery. It is celebrated on June 19th, the day when the last enslaved people in Texas learned they were free in 1865. President Joe Biden signed the legislation that made Juneteenth a federal holiday in June 2021.

Randolph Family Reunion Celebration after 27 Years

It was a phenomenal weekend for the family of Mr. and Mrs. Allison B. Randolph Sr. as they enjoyed a three-day Family Reunion Celebration. Over 150 family members participated in a variety of activities that aimed to foster connectedness, remembering our ancestors, reinstating our core values and doing what Randolph's enjoy most... having a good time with each other. In addition, the family replicated a photo that was taken in the 60's when our grandparents were still alive and well. The new photo illustrates how the Randolph family has grown and prospered. This reunion was well overdue, considering the last reunion was held over 27 years ago in 1991. And Data News Weekly was there!!!



Family comes from near and far to come together to celebrate as a family once again. This photo was taken in front of our grandparents home.



Esther Randolph Roberts matriarch of the group.



Family of Agatha Randolph Jones and Joseph Madison Jones, founder of Data News Weekly.

Data Zone, Continued from page 6.



Family Reunion Organizing Committee - Great Job!!!



Gabriel Anthony Jones, son of Terry B. Jones.



Jordan Randolph and his daughters.



Keith Randolph in the center and his family.



Family of Allison Randolph, Sr.



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State Senator Royce Duplessis Helps Pass Milestone Expungement Bill, Benefiting 1.3 Million Louisiana Citizens

Data News Staff Edited Report

NEW ORLEANS, LA. – State Senator Royce Duplessis has achieved a significant milestone with the successful passing of SB 111, also known as The New Endings and Opportunities Act. This landmark legislation benefits approximately 1.3 million Louisiana citizens who are currently eligible for expungement of non-violent crimes from their records.

The New Endings and Opportunities Act is designed to create pathways for individuals to access better employment opportunities, obtain adequate housing, and pursue educational endeavors. The bill emphasizes the need for system upgrades within the State's Bureau of Criminal Identification

and Information System and the Supreme Court Case Management Information System. These upgrades will streamline and automate the expungement process, allowing individuals to navigate the system more efficiently. By enhancing communication between various departments, such as the Sheriff's Offices, Clerks of Courts, District Attorney's Offices, the Louisiana State Police, and the Supreme Court, SB 111 aims to ensure a more cohesive and effective expungement process. Notably, the bill eliminates the \$550 filing cost, effectively removing the most significant barrier to citizens seeking this relief.

"The goal is to get more people back to work, reduce recidivism and improve quality of life. With-



Louisiana State Senator Royce Duplessis.

out a good job, some people see little hope of not returning to their previous lives that led to imprisonment, said Senator Royce Duplessis (D), who authored the bill in collaboration with the Justice and Accountability Center of Louisiana.

The Justice and Accountability Center, an organization that advocates for Criminal Justice Reform, has been developing The New Endings and Opportunities Act (formerly known as Clean Slate) for four years and its leaders believe SB 111

will positively impact the state's overall economy.

"We are grateful to our coalition of supporters, especially Senator Duplessis and former Representative Ted James for championing this legislation. We celebrate this milestone achievement and remain committed to improving and expanding this law for citizens seeking a better life through the expungement process," said Sherie Thomas, Executive Director of Justice and Accountability Center of Louisiana.

SB 111 represents a significant step forward for Criminal Justice Reform in Louisiana. It underscores the state's commitment to providing its citizens with fair opportunities to rebuild their lives, contributing to a stronger, more inclusive society.

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Woodmere Festival June 17th

Event to feature local musicians, vendors & community organizations

Data News Staff Edited Report

(Harvey, LA) - Local musicians, vendors and community organizations will take center stage during the Woodmere Festival taking place Saturday, June 17, 2023 from 1PM - 7PM at Woodmere Playground, 4100 Glenmere Blvd., Harvey, LA 70058.

The Woodmere Festival is a FREE, family-centered event that will feature live entertainment, free seafood, access to community resources, and an interactive kids area. The event is offered through a collaboration with New Growth Economic Development Association, Rep. Rodney Lyons (District 87) and Jefferson Parish Councilmember Byron Lee to promote

Woodmere Festival Entertainment Lineup

1:00pm - 1:30pm DJ Polo
 1:30pm - 2:30pm 4X4
 2:45pm - 3:45pm Chiara
 4:00pm - 5:00pm Big 6 Brass Band
 5:15pm - 5:45pm DJ Polo
 6:00pm - 7:00pm Dave Lemon

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Strategy in His Image

Xavier University of Louisiana Professors Publish Book on Workplace Spirituality and Leadership

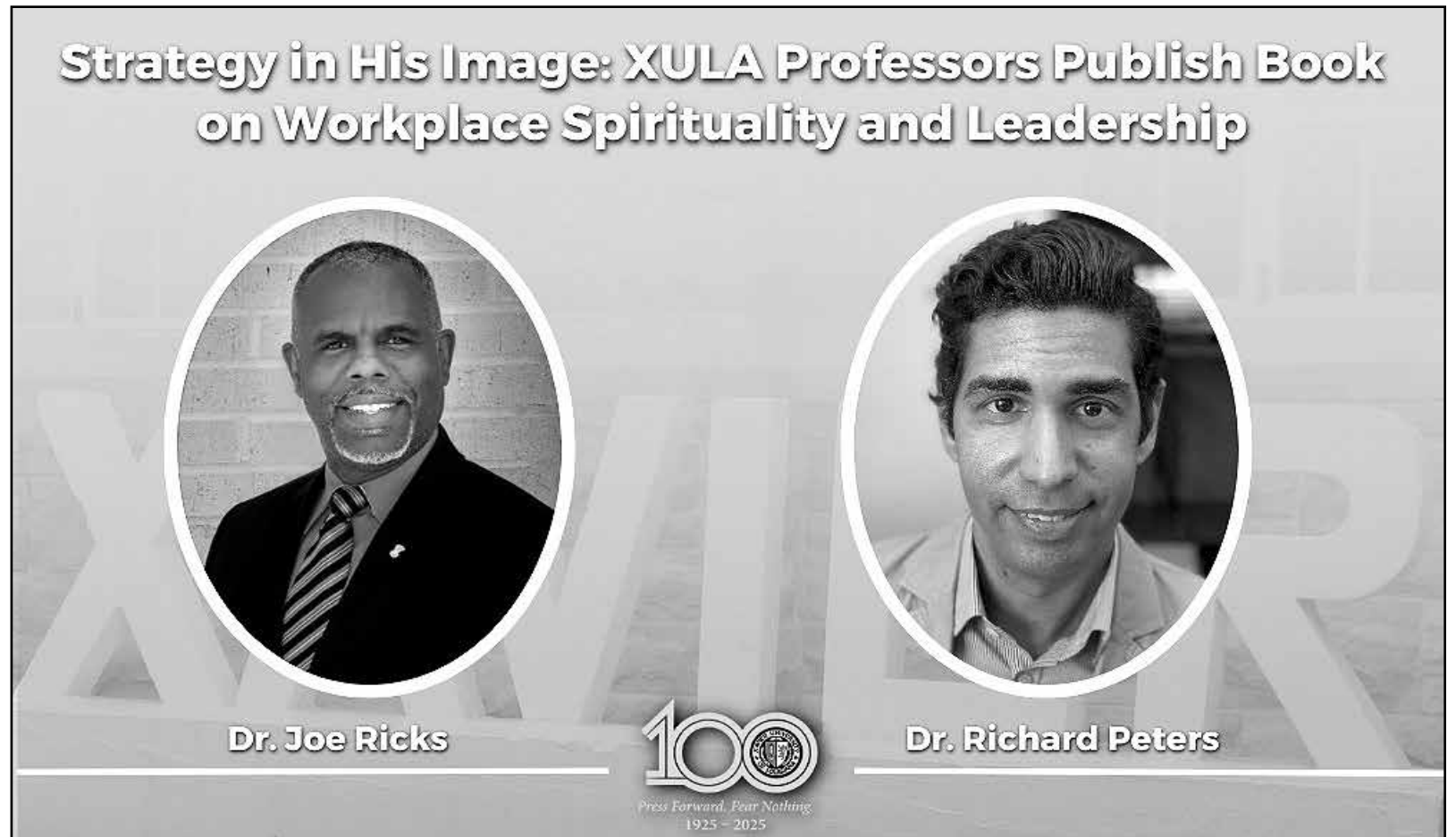
Xavier University of Louisiana

For nearly one hundred years, the nation's only Historically Black and Catholic institution of higher education, Xavier University of Louisiana, has boasted excellent and dedicated faculty committed to the university's mission of promoting a more just and humane society by educating the next generation of leaders.

Two Xavier professors recently collaborated to write a book on spirituality and leadership in the workplace from a Christian perspective, offering a model navigating the context of business and leadership through a faith-inspired lens, reinforcing Xavier's great legacy and foundation of faith. Dr. Joe Ricks and Dr. Richard Peters of Xavier's Division of Business were proud to publish their book, "Strategy in His Image: Supporting and Sustaining Organizational Strategy from a Christian Perspective."

In their publication, they address the critical need to reconcile workplace spirituality with strategic thinking and business operations because of religious identity's significance throughout the United States. As Xavier is rooted in religious faith, Dr. Ricks and Dr. Peters' achievements continue to support the vision of the university's foundresses, St. Katharine Drexel and the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament.

The research interests of Dr. Ricks and Dr. Peters naturally gelled together, having conducted work on corporate social responsibility and philanthropy. Both practicing Christians, they were inspired to create their model after reading an article discussing spirituality in the workplace. After recognizing they



could develop their concept further, they created a journal article that would later lay the foundation to expand into a book.

"We do a deep dive into the literature of both strategy and theology," said Dr. Ricks. "This book was written for practicing organizational leaders who identify as Christian, and we use our academic training to write what executives and decision makers within organizations would need."

"I came from a strategic business lens, and Dr. Ricks has more theological expertise, and you see a lot of that exploration in the book," said Dr. Peters. "This was an evolution and is something we're both

passionate about."

Their book model emphasizes four principles: subsidiarity with solidarity, stewardship, support and empowerment, and synergy. These principles discuss decision-making, promoting sustainability and social well-being, implementation, and principles where Christians and non-Christians are supported and empowered for individual growth and organizational success. A five-year culmination of work, the book's digital release has already garnered interest, with a postgraduate student reaching out to the professors to share their excitement to read and review the book.

"People who are not only Chris-

tians but Christian leaders are looking for something like this that is tied to their value system but can most importantly be used in their workplace," said Dr. Peters.

Dr. Peters and Dr. Ricks' collaborative book development also supports their work at Xavier and the university's mission.

"Our book talks about strategy and leadership development from a Christian perspective. What could be more Xavier? It connects our research squarely with the university's mission," said Dr. Ricks.

The professors have already begun discussing their next project in this space and the opportunities to conduct more work connected to

the strategic leadership and spirituality field. They are hopeful business leaders and executives will implement the book's model and that it will guide thought and decision-making processes.

As faith and leadership are vital to Xavier, Dr. Ricks and Dr. Peters' work epitomizes the university's mission and values.

"There's always this discussion about being your authentic self, yet people of faith often hide that portion of themselves at work. The hope is that Christian leaders can find a way to bring that authentic self to their careers, organizations, leadership, and do it in a way that respects diversity," said Dr. Ricks.

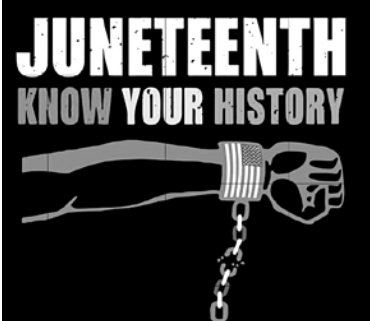
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U.S. Supreme Court Struck Down Republican Drawn Congressional Districts in Alabama, Ruling that They Discriminated Against Black Voters

Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Newswire Senior
National Correspondent

In a surprising decision on Thursday, the Supreme Court struck down Republican-drawn congressional districts in Alabama, ruling that they discriminated against Black voters.

The 5-4 vote means state officials must redraw the heavily Republican-favored map of Alabama's seven congressional districts.

Chief Justice John Roberts and Justice Brett Kavanaugh, both conservatives, joined the court's three liberals in the majority.

The ruling by the court, which currently holds a 6-3 conservative majority, marks a departure from the state's attempt to make it more challenging to address concerns raised by civil rights advocates regarding the dilution of Black voters' power in states like Alabama, where voters are divided into districts where White voters dominate.

The cases brought before the court were consolidated and originated from the litigation over the new congressional district map, which the Republican-controlled Alabama Legislature drafted after the 2020 census.

The challengers, including individual voters and the Alabama State Conference of the NAACP, argued that the map violated Section 2 of the 1965 Voting Rights Act by discriminating against Black voters.

Under the new map, only one out of seven districts would likely enable Black voters to elect a candidate of their choice.

The NAACP contended that Alabama, with a population of over a quarter Black residents, should have at least two such districts and presented evidence supporting the feasibility of drawing an additional majority-Black district.

In January 2022, a lower court agreed with the challengers, ruling that the plaintiffs had demon-



strated, in line with Supreme Court precedent, that Alabama's Black population was both sizable and compact enough to warrant a second majority-Black district.

The court ordered the redrawing of the map. However, Alabama's Republican Attorney General, Steve Marshall, turned to the Supreme Court, which placed the litigation on hold and agreed to hear the case.

During the November election, the Supreme Court was split 5-4 in allowing the use of the new map. Chief Justice John Roberts, a conservative, dissented and joined the court's three liberals.

In the election, Republicans secured six out of the seven seats, while Democrats won the majority-Black district.

If a new map had been implemented, Democrats might have gained an additional seat.

The Supreme Court's decisions in cases like the Alabama one have been seen as potentially contributing to Republicans' slim majority in the House of Representatives.

Alabama argued that the lower court excessively emphasized race when reaching its conclusions.

Attorney General Steve Marshall asserted in court documents that

In 2013, the court significantly limited a crucial provision of the law that allowed for federal oversight of election law changes in specific states.

In a 2021 ruling related to Arizona, the court made bringing cases under Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act more challenging.

This case is one of three that the court is currently hearing where conservative attorneys promote what they view as politically correct, race-neutral arguments to address racial discrimination.

In other cases, the court may end affirmative action in college admissions and strike down parts of a law that provides preferences to Native Americans seeking to adopt Native American children.

The court is also deliberating another significant election-related dispute in the current term.

The ruling, expected before the end of June, will address a Republican initiative to limit state courts' authority to enforce state constitutional provisions in federal elections.

Should the court uphold the initiative, it could facilitate Republican-led legislatures' efforts to restrict voting rights.



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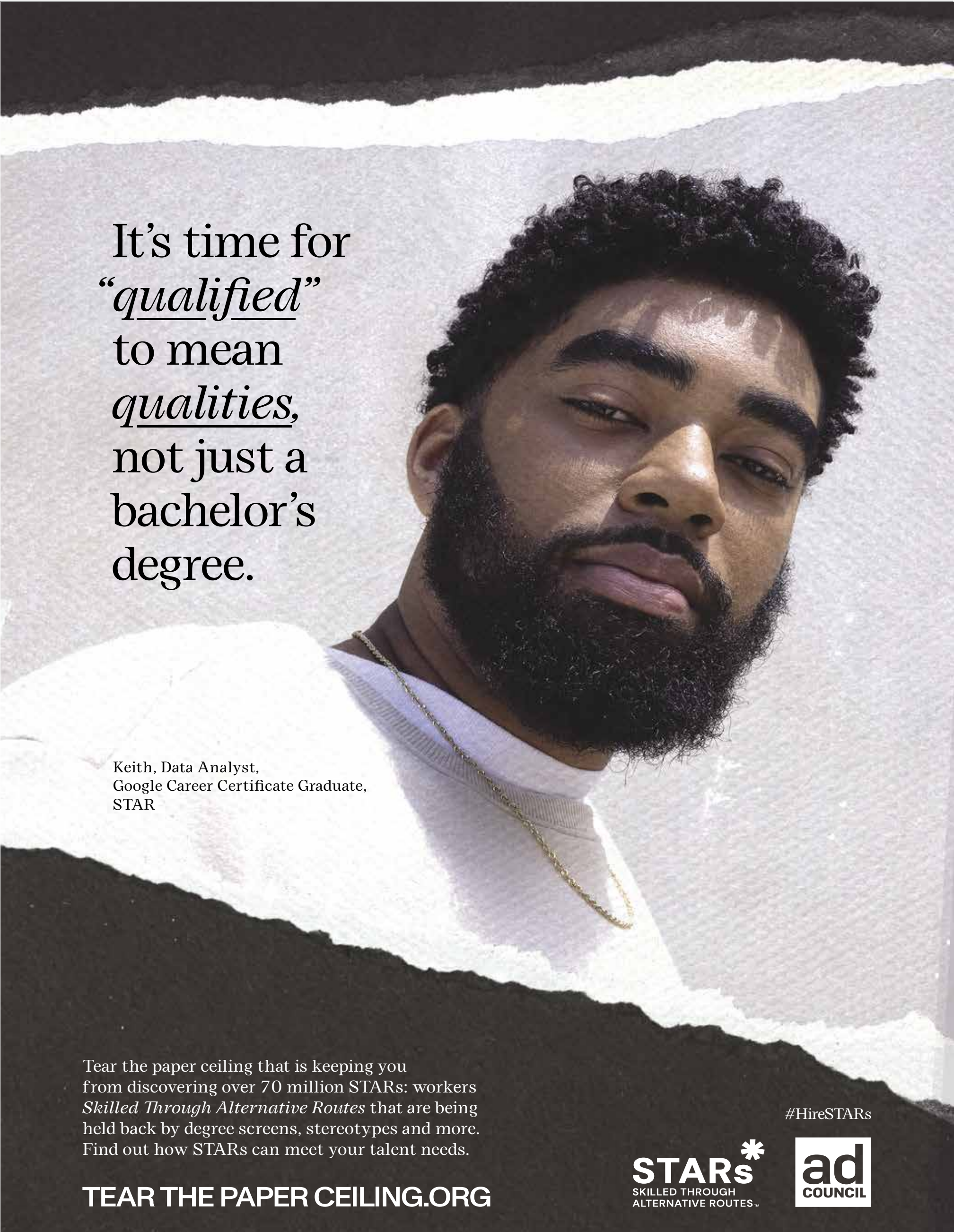
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