



About The Project:

"Pillars of A People: The 100 African Americans Who Most Influenced The 20th Century" is the brainchild of Thomas LaVeist, Ph.D., associate professor of Health and Public Policy at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, and founder and CEO of DAYSTAR. Experts in African-American history, such as black Studies department chairs, professors, historians and museum curators, were contacted by DAYSTAR directly for their nominations and final rankings. To get broader participation from the general public, blackVoices.com and DayStar formed a partnership to provide a place for those with internet access to submit nominees.

A list of nominees was produced and ranked according to the number of nominations. The experts were asked to rank the nominees as well as add others. The combined results produced the final list.

About DayStar:

DayStar Research specializes in research about the black experience. In our survey of African-American professionals in higher education, we addressed the question, "Which are the Best Colleges for African-American Students?"


The summary of our study is featured in the January 1999 issue of black Enterprise Magazine. DayStar's work has been featured in media outlets throughout the country including: The New York Times, USA Today, CNN, Miami Herald, Boston Globe, Washington Post and the Cleveland Plain Dealer to name a few.

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See the ranking of the final "100 Pillars," in either [Flash](#) or [non-Flash](#) presentation.

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and still we rise...

black history month INFLUENTIAL

020 marcus garvey (1887-1940)

Activist. Leader the "Back to Africa Movement" which inspired pride in many African-Americans during the 1920s.



019 mary mcleod bethune (1875-1955)

Advocate for the education of African-Americans. Founder of the Daytona Educational and Industrial Training School for Negro Girls (Bethune-Cookman College) as well as the National Council of Negro Women.



018 arthur fletcher (1925-)

Developed the Affirmative Action Policy, which helped achieve many gains for African-Americans, women and others.



017 roy wilkins (1901-1981)

Former NAACP head, journalist, civil rights activist. Longtime editor of the NAACP's official magazine. Instrumental in the Brown v. Board of Education case, and helped organized the 1963 March on Washington.



016 madam c j walker (1867-1919)

Entrepreneur. First African-American female millionaire, invented the pressing comb, opened chain of hair salons, providing employment for countless African-Americans.

