



BLACK HISTORY

MONTH

KNOW THE PAST, SHAPE THE FUTURE.



February is Black History Month

Orthofix celebrates all month by spotlighting inspirational people.

To celebrate Black History Month, we asked a few of our team members to share their thoughts about Black men and women who have inspired them. See their replies on the following pages. Black History Month is an annual observance that originated in the United States, where it is also known as African American History Month. It has received official recognition from governments in the United States and Canada and has recently been observed in Ireland, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom, and other countries. It began as a way of remembering important African Americans and their contributions to history and culture.

Vice President Kamala Harris

The first African American, first South Asian American and first woman elected Vice President of the United States

Vice President **Kamala Harris** is the first Black person, the first woman and the first South Asian-American to be elected Vice President of the United States. Born to an Indian physician mother and a Black Stanford University professor, she grew up in an intercultural home embracing all cultures and ethnicities. Vice President Harris is also the first South Asian American woman and the second African-American woman to serve as a U.S. senator in the nation's entire history. In January 2011, she became the first African American woman and the first South Asian-American attorney general in California. In November 2014, she was re-elected to this office to serve a second term. Vice President Harris was sworn in as the United States Senator from California in January 2017. Vice President Harris is a proud graduate of Howard University, a historically black college. She is a member of the Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority which is the first historically African American Greek-lettered sorority founded in January 1908 at Howard University.

"Vice President Harris is a remarkable Black woman. I am proud to see a woman of color achieve the number of accomplishments she has during her career, the most prestigious one as Vice President of the United States. Our country is very diverse and those in political positions should mirror their constituents in gender and ethnic background. Vice President Harris' service to our country is historic and will be noted in the history books as breaking the glass ceiling."

Angela McCoy, Accounts Payable Lead



Claudette Colvin

Arrested at the age of 15 for refusing to give up her seat to a white woman on a crowded bus, Claudette made history nine months before the more widely known incident involving Rosa Parks



Claudette Colvin was born in September 1939, in Pine Level, Alabama. She later moved to Montgomery, Alabama, at the age of 8 years old. Claudette began her activism as a teen by joining the NAACP Youth Council.

In 1955, at the age of 15 years old, Claudette was sitting on a completely full bus in Montgomery when the driver asked her and three Black classmates to give up the whole row so that a white woman could sit. Her classmates got up and moved to the back of the bus, but Claudette did not, leaving the woman standing because she refused to sit in the same row as the Black teenager. Claudette was arrested, physically removed from the bus, handcuffed and taken to the city jail. This event occurred nine months before Rosa Parks refused to vacate her seat on a city bus for a white person to sit.

Martin Luther King Jr. and other Black leaders in the community became aware of this situation. What followed ignited a series of acts that would shape a significant piece of civil rights history leading to larger bus boycotts and lunch counter sit-ins. In 1956, Claudette and three other plaintiffs filed a federal lawsuit, "Browder v. Gayle," which challenged the constitutionality of Montgomery's segregation laws. A three-judge panel ruled in their favor, and the U.S. Supreme Court upheld the

decision, a ruling that ultimately rendered the boycott a success. New York Governor Mario Cuomo awarded Claudette the MLK Jr. Medal of Freedom in 1990, and in 2009, she was the subject of Phillip Hoose's "Claudette Colvin: Twice Toward Justice," which won a National Book Award.

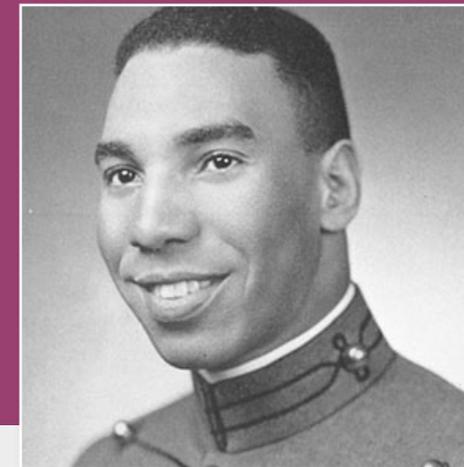
"At 15 years old, Claudette Colvin showed a level of bravery that many adults in her situation would not have dared to exhibit. She took what she learned about equal rights, Jim Crow, the Constitution, and what was then called Black History Week, and she stood up (or rather sat down) for what was her right. She drew from the courage of those she had recently learned about such as Frederick Douglass, W.E.B. DuBois, Sojourner Truth and Harriet Tubman. She convinced local community groups and Martin Luther King Jr. to move forward with the 381-day Montgomery Bus Boycott. As a football coach and mentor to youth, I admire Claudette and how she bravely faced the fears of jail, courtrooms, and negative backlash to stand up for what she believed. Claudette is an example for our youth today, showing them that they CAN make a difference and they CAN shape the future."

Ericka Criner, Talent Acquisition Business Partner



General Roscoe Robinson Jr.

The first African American to become a four-star general in the United States Army



General **Roscoe Robinson Jr.**, born in St. Louis, Missouri, was the first African American to become a four-star general in the United States Army. He attended St. Louis University for only a year and then transferred to the United States Military Academy at West Point in 1947. While at West Point, a committee was formed to choose a graduate who would serve as a role model of an African American combat arms officer for all cadets. As a distinct honor, the committee chose Gen. Roscoe Robinson Jr. His career encompassed two foreign wars, and he was recognized by West Point as a Distinguished Graduate in 1993. The criteria for the Distinguished Graduate Award states that recipients will epitomize the academy's motto of "Duty, Honor, Country" and underscore the broad national significance of West Point as one of America's cherished institutions. General Robinson certainly met those requirements. During his military career, General Robinson received the following awards: Distinguished Service Medal, the Legion of Merit, and the Distinguished Flying Cross. He passed away in 1993 following a battle with leukemia and is buried in Arlington National Cemetery.

"As I learned more about retired General Roscoe Robinson Jr., I realized how much Black Americans have achieved and contributed to our Armed Forces. General Robinson was the epitome of duty and honor to country. To be recognized by his alma mater as a role model for others to follow speaks volumes about his character and leadership skills. I admire General Robinson and thank him for the sacrifices he made to serve our country."

Sandra Driver, Senior Manager of Customer Care, International



Freedom Riders

In the early '60s, a group of Black and white Americans endured beatings, bombings and arrests when they challenged segregation in the South

In 1961, Freedom Rides were organized to challenge the non-enforcement of the 1960 decision by the Supreme Court in *Boynton v. Virginia* that segregation of interstate transportation facilities, including bus terminals, was unconstitutional. Black riders traveled across Southern states and attempted to use whites-only restrooms, lunch counters and waiting rooms.

Congressman John Lewis was one of the original 13 Freedom Riders, which was comprised of seven African Americans and six white people. The group left Washington, D.C., on a Greyhound bus on May 4, 1961. The Riders were met with violence, arrests and constant opposition as they pushed forward on their journey. The rides continued over the next several months, and in the fall of 1961, under pressure from the Kennedy administration, the Interstate Commerce Commission issued regulations prohibiting segregation in interstate buses, trains, transit terminals, bathrooms and lunch counters.

"The fight for equal rights for African Americans during the Civil Rights Movement in the 1960s extended to transportation. The Freedom Riders were a mix of Black and white Americans committed to making positive change in our country. I appreciate the sacrifices they made, often facing arrests and violence, to protest the unfair treatment of African Americans. This is an awesome representation of unity, and I am thankful for their dedication to moving the country closer to equality."

Tynia Day, Collections Administrator I



Dr. Lilia Ann Abron

The first African American woman to earn a Ph.D. in chemical engineering



Dr. Lilia Ann Abron is the first African American woman in the nation (and the third woman at the University of Iowa) to receive a doctorate in chemical engineering. Dr. Abron was born the daughter of educators on March 8, 1942, in Memphis, TN. She is a graduate of LeMoyne College where she earned her B.S. degree in chemistry in 1966. Dr. Abron went on to earn her M.S. degree in sanitary engineering from Washington University in St. Louis in 1968. Dr. Abron did not stop there. She went on to become a research engineer for the Metropolitan Sanitary District of Greater Chicago. Dr. Abron received her Ph.D. in chemical engineering from the University of Iowa in 1972, the first African American woman to do so. After completing her education, she served as an assistant professor of civil engineering at Tennessee State University and held a joint appointment as an assistant professor of environmental engineering at Vanderbilt University. In 1975, she joined the faculty of Howard University as an assistant professor of civil and environmental engineering while serving as a consultant to local engineering firms. She founded PEER Consultants in 1978, an environmental engineering consulting firm that provides solutions to the problems of contamination of the environment. She was elected to the National Academy of Engineering in 2020, for "leadership in providing technology-driven sustainable housing and environmental engineering solutions in the United States and South Africa."

"I admire Dr. Lilia Abron because she achieved so much in her career. It is amazing to learn about a woman who was the first to accomplish so many goals. It is so inspiring and motivates me to follow my dreams and my path in life with optimism. Dr. Abron is a wonderful role model. I enjoyed learning about her achievements."

Ericka Criner, Talent Acquisition Business Partner



U.S. Representative John Lewis

Congressman Lewis rose from student activist to civil rights icon



Congressman **John Robert Lewis** was a politician, civil rights activist, and author until his death in July 2020 at the age of 80 years old. Born in Alabama in 1940, Rep. Lewis began his civil rights activism as a young man by participating in nonviolent sit-ins at lunch counters and other segregated public places. He was one of the original Freedom Riders in 1961, protesting the segregation of Southern interstate bus terminals. Lewis played a key role in organizing the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom in 1963, which advocated for the civil and economic rights of African Americans. In March 1965, Lewis and fellow civil rights activist Hosea Williams led more than 600 peaceful demonstrators on a march in support of protecting the voting rights of African Americans. When demonstrators were attacked by state troopers in Selma, Alabama, the nation was shocked by the televised violence. "Bloody Sunday" helped speed up the passage of the landmark Voting Rights Act signed by President Johnson in August 1965.

In 1981, Lewis entered elective office as an Atlanta city councilman; in 1986, he was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives, representing a district that included Atlanta, where he served until his death in 2020. In addition to numerous other honors, Lewis was awarded the Martin Luther King Jr. Nonviolent Peace Prize in 1975, the John F. Kennedy Profile in Courage Award in 2001, and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People's (NAACP) Spingarn Medal in 2002 and Chairman's Award in 2020. In 2011, he received the Presidential Medal of Freedom. His final honor was to be the first African American lawmaker to lie in state in the rotunda of the U.S. Capitol.

"Congressman John Lewis was a man of service to his country and the civil rights movement of the 1960s. He worked tirelessly shoulder-to-shoulder with Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. to ensure the rights of all Americans through peaceful protests and organized marches. Countless times, he displayed courage as he spoke truth to power and I admire him for that. One of his most well-known quotes is 'Never, ever be afraid to make some noise and get in good trouble, necessary trouble.' I am proud to honor Congressman Lewis and to highlight his contributions to this country."

Chenoa Perez, Human Resources Specialist



The Little Rock Nine

In 1957, a group of nine brave Black students enrolled at formerly all-white Central High School in Little Rock, Arkansas, drawing national attention to the civil rights movement



In 1954, the United States Supreme Court ruled that segregated schools were illegal in the “Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka” case. However, just a few years later nine Black students in Little Rock, Arkansas, were denied the right to an education when they attempted to attend Little Rock Central High School. Those students would become known as the **Little Rock Nine**.

In September 1957, the night before the teens’ first day in Central High classrooms, Arkansas Governor Orval Faubus ordered the state’s National Guard to block their entrance to the formerly all-white school. Even after a federal judge ordered the Little Rock Nine to begin attending Central High immediately, a mob of adults and students, along with the Arkansas National Guard, again prevented the teens from entering the school. Sixteen days later, a federal judge ordered the National Guard removed. When the Little Rock Nine attempted to enter the school once again, another angry crowd gathered and tried to rush into the school. After attending classes for only a few hours, the students were sent home for their safety. Finally, following a plea from Little Rock’s mayor, President Dwight Eisenhower federalized the National Guard and sent U.S. Army soldiers to the scene. Personally guarded by soldiers from the National Guard and the Army’s 101st Airborne, the Little Rock Nine began regular class attendance at Little Rock Central High.

Throughout the year, the nine Black teens were harassed and threatened by many of the white students as they attended classes. That spring, Ernest Green became the first African American to graduate from Little Rock Central High. Ernest was also the only member of the Little Rock Nine to graduate from Central High because in September 1958, Governor Faubus shut down all of Little Rock’s high schools for the entire year to prevent African American attendance. The other eight members

of the Little Rock Nine would all go on to graduate from other high schools across the country or via correspondence. Years later, in 1999, President Bill Clinton awarded each member of the group the Congressional Gold Medal. The Little Rock Nine also all received personal invitations to attend the inauguration of President Barack Obama in 2009.

“I wanted to write this profile because I am a native of Little Rock, Arkansas. I have heard this story of the Little Rock Nine since I was a child, and I hold it dear to my heart because it is a story of courage and perseverance. The nine students that integrated Little Rock Central High are held in high regard now but that was not the case for many years. Images of those students being spat on, yelled at and harassed for merely wanting an equal education are very difficult to watch. My mother lived across the street from Ernest Green and around the corner from Thomas Jefferson, who were both members of the Little Rock Nine. She remembers the military soldiers lining her street as Ernest and the other students attempted to go to school. It is a memory she speaks of often as it is etched in her mind forever. Both my mother and my brother graduated from Little Rock Central High School.

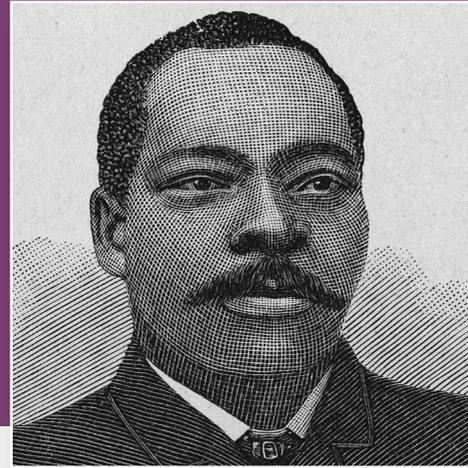
I am very proud that my roots are in Little Rock. Each time I travel there, I drive by the high school and the small museum across the street and say a little prayer of gratitude for all the students that fought for their right to an education during the civil rights movement.”

Kimberly Smith, Director, Corporate Events



Granville Tailer Woods

An African American inventor who made key contributions to the development of the telephone, streetcar and more



Granville Tailer Woods was born on April 23, 1856, to freed slaves Tailer and Martha Woods. Early accounts indicate Woods left school at the age of 10 years old to work as an apprentice studying to be a machinist and a blacksmith. His experiences led him to settle in Cincinnati, Ohio, where he dedicated himself to modernizing the railroad and its equipment. Woods invented more than a dozen devices to improve electric railway cars and other devices for controlling the flow of electricity. His most noted invention at this point was a system for letting a train engineer know how close his train was to others, which helped reduce collisions.

Woods eventually set up his own business, the Woods Electrical Co., to develop, manufacture, and sell electrical apparatus. He filed his first patent for an improved steam boiler furnace in 1889. Telephone inventor Alexander Graham Bell's company, American Bell Telephone Co., purchased the rights to Woods' patent on an apparatus that combined a telephone and a telegraph. The device, which Woods called "telegraphony," allowed a telegraph station to send voice and telegraph messages over a single wire.

Woods' dozens of inventions and patents made life easier and safer for countless Americans, especially when it came to railroad travel. He died an admired

and well-respected inventor in 1910, having sold a number of his devices to such industrial giants as Westinghouse, General Electric, and American Engineering. In 2006, he was inducted into the National Inventors Hall of Fame.

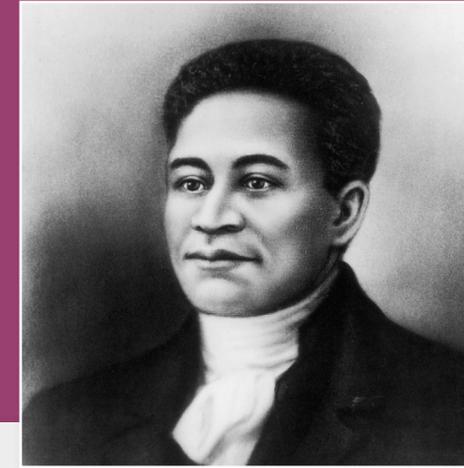
"As an engineer, I draw inspiration and motivation from Granville Tailer Woods; despite the setbacks and odds stacked against him, Woods was still able to thrive and invent devices that formed the bedrock for numerous innovations we see in the 21st century. Woods paved the way for many people of color to delve into STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) and realize their true potential in these areas. In my opinion, any person of color in the STEM field is standing on the shoulders of Granville Tailer Woods."

Datubo Stewart, Design Transfer and Manufacturing Engineer



Crispus Attucks

The first man killed in the American Revolution was of African and Native American heritage



Crispus Attucks is known as a patriot and the first casualty of the American Revolution. Attucks was born of African and Native American heritage in approximately 1723. At 27 years old, he escaped slavery from a farm in Framingham, MA, to work as a sailor on trading ships and whaling vessels on the North Atlantic Seacoast. He would also find work as a rope-maker as he sailed many voyages while eluding capture.

When British soldiers were sent to the colonies to maintain order in the face of violent opposition, it was believed that Attucks was in Boston waiting for his next voyage. On March 5, 1770, a crowd confronted a British soldier at Boston's Custom House. Attucks was one of those at the front of the fight amid dozens of people, and when the British opened fire he was the first of five men killed. Quickly becoming known as the Boston Massacre, this event further propelled the colonies toward war with the British.

Attucks' body was transported to Faneuil Hall, where he and the others killed in the attack were laid in state. City leaders waived segregation laws to allow Attucks to be buried with the others. In 1887, the Massachusetts General Court decided to erect a memorial to honor Crispus Attucks and the other four men killed the night of the Boston Massacre.

"Crispus Attucks, the first man to be killed in the American Revolution, proved himself to be a very brave man. His actions are relevant today because it shows us that when we and our fellow man are faced with injustices, it should encourage us to seek and act on change for the better."

Chenoa Perez, Human Resources Specialist



President Barack Obama

President Obama made history as the first African American President of the United States



When President **Barack Obama** was elected in 2008, he made history by becoming the first African American President of the United States. As the 44th president, he served two terms from 2009-2017. President Obama has been honored with multiple awards for his contributions and accomplishments before and during his tenure in office.

During his time at Harvard, President Obama became the first African American elected president of the Harvard Law Review. From January 1997 to November 2004, he was a member of the Illinois Senate from the 13th district. Then from January 2005 to November 2008, Obama served as the U.S. Senator from Illinois. President Obama's 1995 memoir, "Dreams from My Father," is regarded as one of the best memoirs ever written by an American politician. In 2006, its abridged audio-book version won a Grammy Award for Best Spoken Word Album.

The following year, the memoir also received the NAACP Image Award for Outstanding Literary Work, Nonfiction. In 2009, President Obama won the Nobel Peace Prize "for his extraordinary efforts to strengthen international diplomacy and cooperation between peoples." He was the fourth U.S. president to be awarded the Nobel Peace Prize and the third to become a Nobel laureate while in office. "A Promised Land," President Obama's most recent best-selling memoir, is part one of a two-volume series.

"I had the pleasure of watching President Barack Obama's many speeches on hope and change during the 2008 election cycle. As I watched him inspire many young people around me, I realized something extraordinary was happening in our history.

President Obama has taught me that we can all aspire to strong ethical values and putting those values into practice regardless of public and personal attacks. It is easy to sit back and say that change is too difficult to achieve. However, President Obama shows us that by taking action and by accepting personal responsibility, you can inspire others to act and therefore achieve change."

Jessica Smith, UX Designer



Who Has Inspired You?

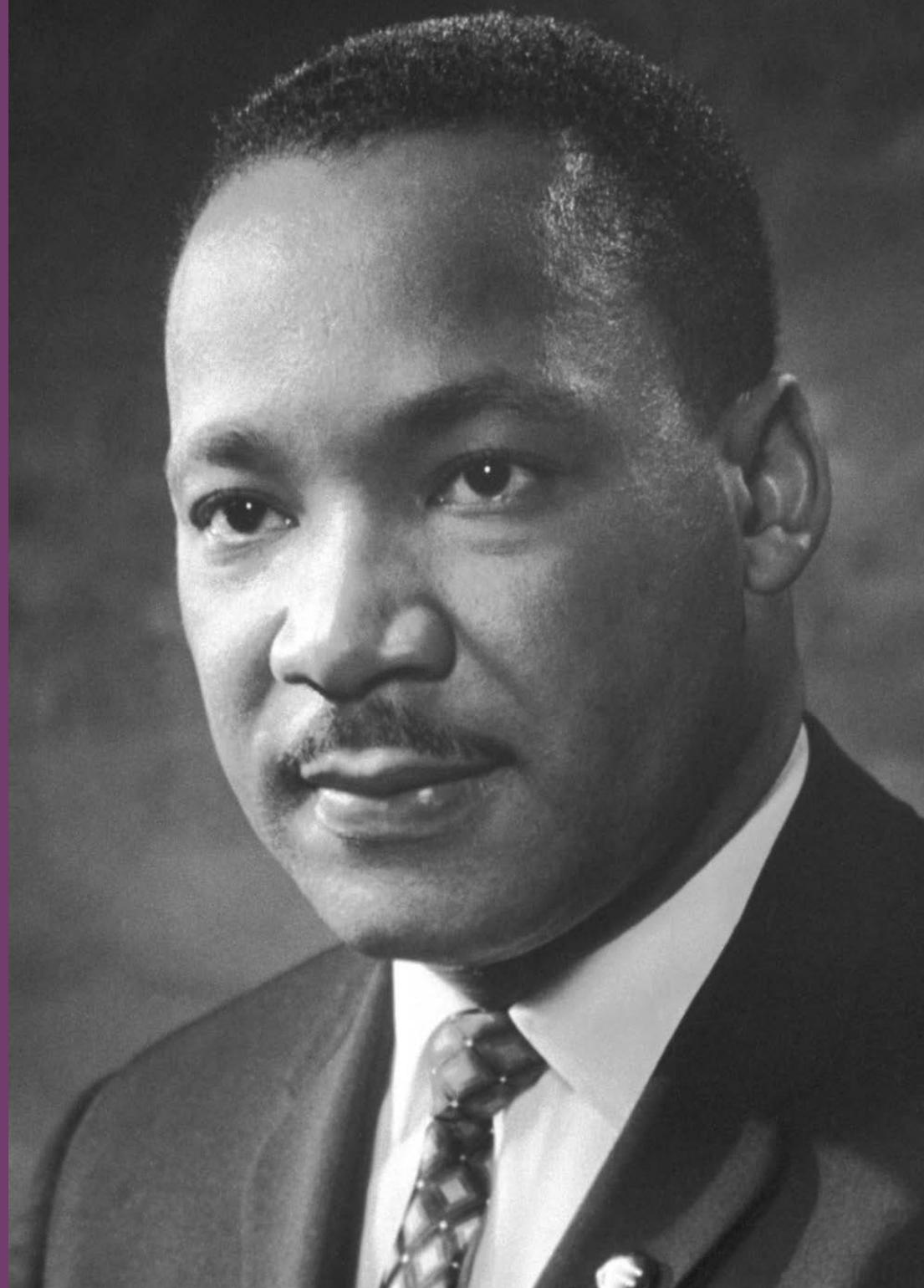
We asked a few of our team members to share their thoughts about Black men and women who have inspired them. Watch these videos to learn more.



In this video, Bobbie Canady, Orthofix Contracts Analyst, shares her thoughts about a relative of hers who made history.



In this video, Douglas Miller, Group Product Manager of Motion Preservation and Anterior Cervical Fixation, shares his thoughts about his parents and their encouragement regarding continuing education.



**“Injustice anywhere
is a threat to
justice everywhere.”**

Martin Luther King Jr.

