OFFICE OF SPONSORED PROGRAMS/ TITLE III
FEBRUARY 2026

WHERE INNOVATION MEETS OPPORTUNITY: E.L.E.V.A.T.E. 2026



On February 14, 2026, Bennett College successfully hosted its E.L.E.V.A.T.E. event, bringing together students, professionals, and community members for an engaging day focused on leadership, entrepreneurship, and creative expression.

The event welcomed 65 attendees and featured a dynamic lineup of guest speakers, student business pitches, and a vibrant talent showcase. Eleven students participated as active presenters and performers, demonstrating innovation, confidence, and professional growth while sharing their ideas and creative abilities.

Through these experiences, students gained valuable real-world exposure—strengthening public speaking skills, entrepreneurial thinking, and networking connections with industry professionals. The event reinforced Bennett College's ongoing commitment to empowering students for success both inside and beyond the classroom.

Community participation also played a key role, strengthening partnerships between the college and external supporters while highlighting the importance of collaboration in leadership development and experiential learning.

For more information, contact Dr. Janice Wise at janice.wise@bennett.edu.

BENNETT COLLEGE HOSTS INAUGURAL BLACK HISTORY MEDIA SHOWCASE





On February 21, the Bennett College Department of Journalism and Media Studies partnered with the Triad Association of Black Journalists (TABJ) to host the inaugural Black History Media Showcase — a dynamic, daylong training designed to give students hands-on experience in the fast-paced world of professional journalism.

The showcase began at 9 a.m. with students pitching original story ideas to working journalists from across the Piedmont Triad. Structured like a real newsroom editorial meeting, the session challenged students to clearly articulate their angles, explain the relevance of their topics and respond to constructive critique. Professional journalists offered immediate feedback, helping students refine their focus and strengthen their reporting plans before heading into the field.

With a firm 4 p.m. deadline in place, students dispersed across campus and into the community to begin reporting. Participants produced stories in print, audio and video formats, reflecting the multiplatform demands of today's media industry. Throughout the day, TABJ members provided one-on-one coaching on sourcing, interviewing, structure and time management — reinforcing the standards and expectations of professional newsrooms. All stories highlighted aspects of the HBCU experience.

By late afternoon, students submitted their completed projects, filing their work just as professional reporters would. The event concluded with a reception and awards ceremony in Steele Hall, where faculty, staff, peers and media professionals gathered to celebrate and showcase the students' work. Select participants were recognized for excellence in reporting.

TABJ members emphasized that their mentorship extends beyond the showcase. Students were encouraged to stay connected, seek guidance and leverage the organization as they pursue internships and careers in media. Many participants shared appreciation for the immersive experience and the opportunity to engage directly with journalists who understand the evolving media landscape.

The Black History Media Showcase not only honored the legacy of Black journalism but also invested in its future — equipping Bennett students with the skills, confidence and professional connections to lead the next generation of storytellers.

For more information, contact Prof. Tom Lipscomb at tlipscomb@Bennett.edu.

A MONTH OF SELF-LOVE, SISTERHOOD AND WELLNESS AT BENNETT





In February, Bennett College community intentionally centered self-love — embracing the beauty of our Blackness, our bodies, our womanhood and our Bennett sisterhood. The Wellness Team curated meaningful experiences in the Wellness Room that blended reflection, rest and joy, creating space for students to reconnect with themselves and one another.

Throughout the month, students penned powerful self-love letters affirming their growth and resilience. They also participated in a goal-focused — and super fun — Vision Board Bingo, with a coveted Kate Spade bag awarded to the winner. During a week of student protest, the Wellness Team hosted several “Come Vibe” days, ensuring the Wellness Room remained a consistent space of care, calm and community.

Students fully embraced opportunities for rest and restoration. From grounding mats and eye and TENS massagers to journaling, music and quiet reading under a new floor lamp, the room became a sanctuary. The newly added beanbag chairs quickly became student favorites — so much so that we may need two more.

The month also featured two energizing Stretch Labs and a lively belly dancing demonstration led by one of our newest integrated wellness providers. In a joyful show of support, even the Provost joined in the fun. At Bennett, self-love is more than a theme — it’s a lived experience woven into the fabric of campus life.

For more information on the program, contact Ms. Ryanne Peterson at ryanne.peterson@bennett.edu

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