

Contact: Karen N. Peart, 203-980-2222 or karen.peart@yale.edu

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Yale Announces Additional Actions to Address Slavery Research Project's Findings, Publishes "Yale and Slavery: A History" and Issues Apology

New Haven, Conn. — Yale University's ongoing work to understand its history and connections to slavery continues today with a formal apology, announcements of new commitments and actions, and the release of a scholarly, peer-reviewed book, "Yale and Slavery: A History," authored by Yale Professor David W. Blight with the Yale and Slavery Research Project. Key findings and the book are publicly available [here](#).

"Confronting this history helps us to build a stronger community and realize our aspirations to create a better future," said Yale President Peter Salovey. "Today, on behalf of Yale University, we recognize our university's historical role in and associations with slavery, as well as the labor, the experiences, and the contributions of enslaved people to our university's history, and we apologize for the ways that Yale's leaders, throughout our early history, participated in slavery. Acknowledging and apologizing for this history are only part of the path forward. These findings have propelled us toward meaningful action to address the continued effects of slavery in society today."

Yale will host an event today, February 16, 2024, at 4:00 pm ET, available to community members and the general public via [livestream](#). Yale will provide copies of the book to each public library and high school in New Haven, as well as to local churches and other community organizations. The university has subsidized a free e-book version that is available to everyone. Members of the media may access an online media kit [here](#).

The book notes that some of Yale's founders and early leaders owned enslaved people; Connecticut Hall was built in part using enslaved labor; and prominent members of the Yale community joined with local leaders in 1831 to stop a proposal to build a college in New Haven for Black youth, which would have been America's first Black college.

These findings have been shared publicly and addressed by Yale on an ongoing basis during the research process. The university's actions in response to the findings focus on increasing educational access; advancing inclusive economic growth; better reflecting its history across campus; and creating widespread access to Yale's historical findings. The Yale and Slavery Research Project is part of Yale's broader [Belonging](#) work to enhance diversity, support equity, and promote an environment of welcome, inclusion, and respect.

New actions being announced today by the university include:

- Designing a new residency fellowship program in partnership with the New Haven Public School system, New Haven Promise, and Southern Connecticut State University, that funds the education of aspiring teachers and aims to place 100 teachers with master's degrees into the city's schools in five years.
- Launching a four-year teaching institute program to foster innovation in the ways regional history is taught and help teachers meet new state mandates on Black and Indigenous history.
- Focusing the Fall 2024 DeVane Lecture (a free program for members of the public to attend a semester-long class alongside Yale students) on Yale's history with slavery.

- Opening a new, free exhibit at the New Haven Museum focused on this topic.
- Updating content for virtual and in-person campus tours.
- Placing art and informational installations on campus.
- Supporting the development of a state-of-the-art mixed-use retail, residential, and cultural hub in New Haven.

Ongoing commitments from the university include:

- [New Haven Promise](#), a college scholarship and career development program that has supported more than 2,200 New Haven Public School students.
- The [Pennington Fellowship](#), a scholarship that supports New Haven high school graduates to attend a partner HBCU institution.
- The [Law School Access Program](#), a pipeline program for first-generation, low-income, and under-represented students from New Haven.
- Faculty research partnerships with HBCUs across the country.

The full details of the university's response are available [here](#).

As this work progresses, Yale is committed to taking additional actions, and the university has established a new committee to guide its continued response and determine future steps. The university will host listening sessions in the coming months with stakeholders across campus and in New Haven to receive additional input.

"The Yale and Slavery Research Project has provided us with a deeper understanding of who we are—a necessary foundation from which to build a stronger, more knowledgeable, and more vibrant university and society," said Salovey. "Today, we mark one milestone in our journey to creating a stronger and more inclusive Yale and to confronting deeply rooted challenges in society. Our work continues, and we welcome our community's continued engagement to discuss the book, reflect, and engage with our history."

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