

## **MEDIA ADVISORY**

### **Global Transcribe-a-thon Honors Nineteenth-Century Black Freedom Struggles on Douglass Day 2018**

**Tuesday, February 13, 2018**

**Newark, Delaware** - The University of Delaware's [Colored Conventions Project \(CCP\)](#) will host its largest transcribe-a-thon to date on **Wednesday, February 14th, 2018**. The working celebration will mark the 200th birthday of self-emancipated African American activist, Frederick Douglass. This year's effort benefits the [National Museum of African American History and Culture \(NMAAHC\)](#), and the [Smithsonian Transcription Center](#), toward their goal to transcribe 19th-century records from the *Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands*, known as the *Freedmen's Bureau*. **More than 60 host groups and 1400 individuals** will gather to help digitally preserve the documents from this crucial humanitarian program. Participants will learn how Douglass, one of the most powerful proponents of the Colored Conventions Movement, also contributed to the Bureau's work attending to the well-being of formerly enslaved Blacks left destitute after the American Civil War.

**Who:** High school students, college and university students, public library users, museum patrons, student groups, amateur historians and genealogists, librarians, archivists, scholars, teachers, activists, church goers, and other volunteers from Delaware, across the United States, and as far away as England, Ireland and Spain.

**What:** An online and transnational celebration of Frederick Douglass' 200 birthday through a transcribe-a-thon of the Freedmen's Bureau Papers (1865-1872). Live performances, short history spots, and birthday cake will be on hand at many locations.

**When:** Wednesday, February. 14<sup>th</sup>, 2018 - from 12:00 PM to 3:00 PM( EST / UTC-5)

**Where (US host institutions):** [University of Delaware \(CCP / DE\)](#), [Howard University \(NMAAHC, Smithsonian / DC\)](#), [Princeton University \(NJ\)](#), and live-streamed online at [coloredconventions.org/hbd](http://coloredconventions.org/hbd)

## **MEDIA ADVISORY**

**Where (participants):** More than 1400 people from institutions, organizations, independent groups and as individuals will congregate simultaneously for this event. **See MAP** at <https://goo.gl/maeY99>. **Contact persons at select designated locales are open to media inquiries** (see list below).

**Why:** In honor of Frederick Douglass' 200th birthday, his urgent work with the post-U.S. Civil War Freedmen's Bureau (formally, the Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands) and the Colored Conventions Movement (1830 thru the 1890s)

**How:** Visit the locations where the simultaneous transcriptions are taking place, and follow the action online.

**Livestream** = [coloredconventions.org/hbd](https://coloredconventions.org/hbd)  
**Twitter** = [@CCP\\_org](https://twitter.com/CCP_org)  
**Facebook** = <https://www.facebook.com/ColoredConventionsProject/>  
**Instagram** = [@colored\\_conventions](https://www.instagram.com/colored_conventions)

**VISUALS:** Official opening ceremony with university designates, individuals gathering, meeting each other, singing, celebrating (party / cake cutting), people transcribing (with REAX), Frederick Douglass speech reenactment, dance performance by Women of Consequence, short historical presentations (projected archival photographs and original documents), on-camera streeters and short scholar interviews.

**For more information and for media interviews, contact:**

**Colored Conventions Project**

Dr. Gabrielle Foreman - [coloredconventions@udel.edu](mailto:coloredconventions@udel.edu)

Dr. Jim Casey - [coloredconventions@udel.edu](mailto:coloredconventions@udel.edu) / 408-892-7830

**National Museum of African American History and Culture**

Email: [freedmensbureau@si.edu](mailto:freedmensbureau@si.edu)