

Black History Month Event – February 27, 2023



World Bank U.S. Executive Director Dr. Adriana D. Kugler (second right) with Camille Richardson, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Commerce, Ethiopis Tafara, VP and Chief Risk, Legal and Admin Officer, and World Bank staff member.

On Monday February 27 the USED Office, in partnership with three African Executive Directors, hosted what may have been the first Board-sponsored Black History Month Program in the Bank's history. USED Kugler noted the important contributions of Black Americans not only to the country, but especially Washington, DC where the Bank is housed and reiterated the Biden Administration's commitment to equity and diversity. Ethiopis Tafara, Chair of the World Bank's Anti-Racism Task Force, spoke plainly of the realities of anti-Black discrimination within the Bank, citing numbers related to length of time for promotions and other factors. Department of Commerce DAS for Middle East and Africa Camille Richardson as well as Africa Executive Director Floribert Ngaraku both highlighted the important link between Africa and the African Diaspora and how those ties needed to be better leveraged to bring the necessary increases in investment and development to the Continent. The event was well attended, with outgoing President David Malpass joining and featured musical performances by special guests of the ED Office.