Women’s have been fighting for the right to education since before the discovery of America. This newsletter will highlight black women who have been at the forefront of the civil rights movement and the fight for equal education. This can be seen since the end of slavery with the great Fanny Jackson Coppin or with the famous Brown vs. Board of Education that brought a lot of awareness to equality in education. This can be seen since the end of slavery with the great Fanny Jackson Coppin or with the famous Brown vs. Board of Education that brought a lot of awareness to equality in education.

Leaders such as Gladys Hedgepeth, Berline Williams, and Marguerite Daisy Carr ignited the fight and set the precedent for equal education in the the 50s and 60s. take some time to learn a bit about some influential black women in our history.

A Little Bit of Numbers
in 2019 the following demographics were reported at UConn. These numbers are approximated based on percentage breakdown of 53% female:

- Hispanic/Latino: 6.67%
- Asian: 5.20%
- Black/African American: 3.33%
- 2 or More Races: 1.56%
- Indigenous/Alaska Native: 0.0505%
- Pacific Islander: 0.0311%

Stimulate Your Mind

**Article:** When white women cry: How white women’s tears oppress women of color.

-Accapadi, M. M.

**Book:** Black Girls Must Die Exhausted

-Jayne Allen

**Article:** Blackballed: The Black and white politics of race on America’s campuses.

-Ross, L.
Born into slavery, Fanny Coppin was an American educator, missionary, and lifelong supporter of higher education for women. Fanny dedicated her adolescence years working on her education and when she went to college at Oberlin College, Fanny Jackson Coppin, a woman who excelled and accomplished many achievements. While in college, Fanny was given the opportunity to be a pupil teacher and was the first black person in her college’s history. Fanny was also the country’s first Black principal in the country and used her passion to expand the curriculum to focus on industrial work, develop opportunities to exhibit art created by young women. In 1926, a Baltimore teacher training school was named after her. Today, that school goes by Coppin State University.

FANNY JACKSON COPPIN
1837–1913

Mary McLeod Bethune is widely considered to be one of the most influential Black educators, civil rights leaders, and government officials of the twentieth century. A dedicated teacher, Bethune founded a boarding school which eventually became Bethune-Cookman College, setting the educational standards for many Black colleges to follow.

As a political activist dedicated to civil and women’s rights, Bethune was pivotal in driving voter turnout, especially after women gained the right to vote. She went on to become the highest-ranking Black woman in the government as director of Negro Affairs of the National Youth Administration—a position she was appointed to by President Franklin Roosevelt. From 1940 until her death in 1955, Bethune served as vice president of the NAACP.

MARY MCLEOD BETHUNE
1875–1955

Shirley Chisholm
1924–2005

First black women in congress and first black person to run in a Presidential Elections. "Tremendous amounts of talent are lost to our society just because that talent wears a skirt."

Shirley Chisholm was an educational activist and is credited with the feat of introducing the term ‘African American’ into the general vernacular.

1. an educational activist and is credited with the feat of introducing the term ‘African American’ into the general vernacular.
2. spoke out publicly for girls and their right to learn. After being shot, she dedicated her life to fighting for girls’ ed
3. a civil rights activist, transitioning her focus to children’s rights advocacy. Was crucial in giving a voice to kids
4. a biotechnologist who is known for creating low-cost devices that helped developing countries to diagnose diseases quickly.
5. a Pulitzer Prize-winning reporter, creator of the 1619 Project which commemorated the beginning of slavery in America.
6. a pioneer in establishing Abolitionist Teaching, in 2020 co-founded the Abolitionist Teaching Network (ATN).
7. a professional educator since 1972. Abounding TedTalk encouraged educators to take an interest in their students’ lives.