



JOHN G. RILEY
HOUSE & MUSEUM

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 5, 2013

MEDIA CONTACT:

Marion McGee
Mobile: (850) 339-2757
Office: (850) 681-7881
Fax: (850) 681-7000
Email: info@rileymuseum.org
Web: www.rileymuseum.org

Viva Florida 500 Commemorative Exhibit comes to Bethune Cookman University

DAYTONA BEACH, Florida – *A Route in Search of Roots*, the VIVA Florida 500 traveling exhibit opens today in the Carl S. Swisher Library on the historic campus of Bethune-Cookman University. The exhibit is free and open to the public.

The statewide traveling exhibit was designed by the John G Riley Center & Museum located in Tallahassee, Florida, and was made possible by a grant from the Florida Department of State's Division of Historical Resources. The exhibit debuted in January in the historic Pensacola Village and will continue to travel throughout the state of Florida to serve as a living testament to the resilience of a dynamic race of people. The exhibit, which includes seven banner stands illustrating each historic period, are on display

The traveling exhibit illustrates how African people migrated into the Americas and significantly contributed to the foundation of Florida's history from the first and second Spanish periods through the British Occupation and beyond. The earliest documented evidence of persons of African descent in Florida dates back to 1513 when the Spanish exploration and settlement of Hispaniola took place.

Florida has a unique relationship and history with African American descendants, unlike any other state. Since inception it has been a safe haven for African descendants who first fought against slavery, then against oppression and later for their civil rights. The exhibit creatively illustrates how a culturally diverse group of people – speaking different languages in a foreign land, forged and went on to make remarkable contributions to Florida's development from 1513 to 2013.

This VIVA Florida project has been financed in part with historic preservation grant assistance provided by the Bureau of Historic Preservation, Division of Historical Resources, and Florida Department of State, assisted by the Florida Historical Commission. However, the contents and opinions do not necessarily reflect the views and opinions of the Florida Department of State, nor does the mention of trade names or commercial products constitute endorsement or recommendation by the Florida Department of State. For more information about other upcoming *VIVA Florida500* events visit www.vivaflorida.org project or contact the John G. Riley Museum at (850) 681-7881.

###



JOHN G. RILEY
HOUSE & MUSEUM