I'm Dr. Karen Gilliam, Chief of the Human Capital Development Division. I'm responsible for carrying out a comprehensive program of training and development services, coaching, and mentoring. All of these initiatives are designed to ensure that people are being their best, doing their best, realizing their potential, and that's what I really love about the position.

My mother, who was a wonderful loving woman, I lost her when she was just 45 years young, but the value she instilled in me centered around...
compassion love and being of service

my father was a well decorated Army officer when he retired as a full colonel he became very involved in my children's lives but from him he was a no-nonsense individual had high expectations and demanded excellence the mantra from him is good better best never let it rest until your good is better and your better best I think that having a month dedicated to african-american history is an opportunity for all people to learn about our collective stories that define
our great nation just last year I
attended the Ohio Civil Rights Hall of Fame ceremony I had an opportunity to
hear amazing stories from those individuals who were being inducted
three of whom were Freedom Riders so I knew the history but these were three individuals who sat down stood up and rode the buses so now in addition to knowing the history I've also learned from their stories and I think that's extremely important this month gives us an opportunity to reflect on that history and to learn those stories
the advice that I would give young

people today stems from other roles I have in life I'm a mother a grandmother

and a great-grandmother and it wasn't until I became a great-grandmother that legacy became more central in my life

there are some tenants that I want to instill in my grandchildren as well as to all young people one is to dream big and don't let anyone steal your dream always do your best and you be the author of your life story