



National Black Nurses Association, Inc.
8630 Fenton Street, Suite 910, Silver Spring, MD 20910
Phone: (301) 589-3200 • Fax: (301) 589-3223

For Immediate Release
October 8, 2026

Media Contact: Faith Janecke
fjanecke@nbna.org | 301-589-3223

National Black Nurses Association to Host Newark Screening of *The Ebony Canal: A Story of Black Infant Health*

Award-winning documentary screening and panel discussion will bring healthcare professionals, advocates, families and community members together to advance dialogue and action around Black maternal and infant health

NEWARK, N.J. — October 2026 — The National Black Nurses Association (NBNA) Black Maternal Health Equity Committee will host a special screening of the award-winning documentary *The Ebony Canal: A Story of Black Infant Health* on **Sunday, October 25, 2026, from 6–9 p.m. at Rutgers University’s RBG – The Great Hall, 15 Washington St., Newark, New Jersey.**

Presented in collaboration with **March of Dimes and the Partnership for Maternal & Child Health of Northern New Jersey**, the event will bring together nurses, healthcare professionals, maternal and infant health advocates, families and community members for an evening centered on education, conversation and action.

The Ebony Canal uses storytelling to bring greater attention to Black infant health and the experiences surrounding pregnancy, birth, motherhood and healthcare, as well as the broader factors that influence outcomes for Black mothers and babies. Following the screening, attendees will participate in a panel discussion and community conversation focused on moving beyond awareness toward continued education, advocacy, collaboration, and action.

“Thriving Black mothers create a thriving future. Joyful birth is our birthright.” Said **Dara Skinner, PhD, MBA, BSN, RN, CMGT-BC, FNYAM, Co-Chair of NBNA Black Maternal Health Equity Committee.**

The documentary, narrated by Academy Award-winning actress Viola Davis, brings personal stories and lived experiences to the forefront while examining Black infant health and the broader maternal health landscape. The Newark screening is designed to create space for those stories while encouraging dialogue among healthcare professionals and the broader community.



“When we talk about Black maternal and infant health, we often focus on disparities and poor outcomes, but that is not the whole story of who we are. It is important for people to see the beauty of our lives—that we love ourselves, we love our families, and we are deeply loved. The Ebony Canal gives us an opportunity to center our stories and our humanity while also having the difficult conversations about what needs to change. I hope people leave not only more aware, but committed to action.” Said **Lucinda Canty, PhD, CNM, FAAN, FACNM, Co-Chair of the NBNA Black Maternal Health Equity Committee.**

The evening will feature a VIP red-carpet reception from 6–7 p.m., followed by the screening and panel program from 7–9 p.m. The documentary is narrated by Academy Award-winning actress Viola Davis.

Featured participants include: Dr. Lamman Rucker; Dara Skinner, PhD, MBA, RN, CMGT-BC, FNYAM; Lucinda Canty, PhD, CNM, FAAN, FACNM; Damali Campbell-Oparaji, MD, OB/GYN; and Emma Alaquiva.

Through the program, the NBNA Black Maternal Health Equity Committee seeks to create a space where healthcare professionals, advocates, families and community members can come together to identify ways to collectively support healthier mothers, healthier babies and healthier communities.

Event Details

What: *The Ebony Canal: A Story of Black Infant Health* — Reception, Screening and Panel Discussion

When: Sunday, October 25, 2026

VIP Reception: 6–7 p.m.

Screening & Panel: 7–9 p.m.

Where: Rutgers University, RBG – The Great Hall, 15 Washington St., Newark, NJ 07012

Admission: Seating is limited and advance registration is required.

[Register for The Ebony Canal screening](#)

Additional event information and sponsorship opportunities are available at [The Ebony Canal event page](#). Sponsorship opportunities range from \$500 to \$2,000 and include Supporting, Community, Impact and Presenting Partner levels.

About the National Black Nurses Association

Founded in 1971, NBNA is a professional organization representing more than 308,000 African American registered nurses, licensed vocational/practical nurses, and nursing students through



chapters nationwide. NBNA is dedicated to serving as the voice for Black nurses and diverse populations by promoting professional development, educational advancement, leadership, and health equity initiatives that improve the health of communities locally and globally.