

“Girlhood Interrupted: The Erasure of Black Girls’ Childhood”
Press Release
Thursday, August 9, 2018

Jamalia Blake, Ph.D. is an award-winning and published licensed psychologist and a tenured associate professor at Texas A&M University. Dr. Blake’s research examines the developmental trajectory of peer-directed aggression, bullying, and victimization in socially marginalized youth and racial/ethnic disparities in school discipline. She is author to more than 40 publications.

On Thursday, **September 6, 2018**, Dr. Blake will present data on her groundbreaking study supported by the Georgetown Law Center on Poverty and Inequality on the data showing that adults view Black girls as less innocent and more adult-like than their white peers, especially in the age range of 5–14. The report builds on similar results that have emerged from studies of adult perceptions of Black boys. The study also reveals a potential contributing factor to the disproportionate rates of punitive treatment in the education and juvenile justice systems for Black girls.

The YWCA Westmoreland County, Seton Hill University, the University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg, Westmoreland Diversity Coalition, the NAACP Greensburg- Jeannette, Westmoreland County Community College Black Awareness Committee, and the Community Foundation of Westmoreland County are co-sponsors of Dr. Blake’s two-day visit to schools and meetings with educators in Westmoreland County. The lecture will take place in **Greensburg at Seton Hill University, Cecilian Hall, at 7:00 p.m.** The event is free and open to the public. For additional information, call **724 989 9007**.