

# **Centennial Honors College**

*Western Illinois University*  
Undergraduate Research Day 2014

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**Podium Presentation**  
**Opposing Relationships: The Company the African American Woman Keeps**  
**Konnie Wells**  
**Faculty Mentor: Erik Brooks**  
**African American Studies**

According to a Time Magazine article in 2014, wives are more likely to be the better educated partner than the other way around. Data show that African American women are less likely to get married as opposed to their white counterparts. To further compound this, the higher African American women's education attainment, the more likely she will not get married. This presentation will examine if an undergraduate degree is a significant success measure in the lives of determinant college educated African American women. This presentation also discusses if college educated African American women value the institution of marriage and desire to be married. It also discusses how these women view gender roles in a heterosexual relationship.