

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

RNDC proudly celebrates Black History Month, a time to acknowledge the rich culture and achievements of Blacks/African Americans. We have an ongoing commitment to a culture of inclusion, where diversity is celebrated and where every person can be her or his authentic self. RNDC truly values the unique perspectives, experiences, and contributions of our diverse associates, communities, and business partners.

Name: Laura Laday-Jones

Job Role: Director, Program Management Office IT

Work Location: Atlanta, GA



Why is Black History Month important to you?

Black History Month is a reminder that African Americans played a significant role in shaping America's history. But most importantly, it represents my ancestors experience from slavery to the civil rights movement. I have an opportunity to tell my story because they persisted.

What would you like our RNDC/YMCO family to know about you? Briefly, tell us your story – personal and/or professional. What makes you uniquely you?



I have lived in Atlanta area for 22 years, originating from Louisiana. I attended Louisiana State University then completed my undergrad degree at Kennesaw State University and my graduate degree from Keller University.

I have been married to my husband Scott for 10 years. We are a blended family of six with three adult kids and our 8-year-old Gabrielle who loves anything princess, "play" blogging, and dancing.

I consider myself a country/city girl. I grew up hunting, fishing, and playing sports in rural Louisiana. Now I enjoy the vibrant Atlanta community, trying new restaurants and taking in the arts scene. During college football season I am cheering on the LSU Tigers and occasionally my husband's home team, the Arkansas Razorbacks.

To tie in with our 2020 Black History Month theme, tell us about any family traditions or fond memories that involve music. Why is music important to the Black Experience?

What originated as my husband's family tradition has now become a part of my family tradition. My mother-in-law is the pillar of our family and always brings people together. During holiday events, she has everyone hold hands and we sing "The more we get together the happier we'll be". It is a reminder to continue to make time to be with family and you will always feel a part of something bigger than you.

Music is important to the black experience because it is rooted in African culture; it became a way to communicate messages during slavery. Then it became a part of our religious and mainstream experience. What's great about music is you don't see ethnicity or color; it is purely just whatever appeals to your mood.



Tell us about your taste in music. What is your favorite music genre? Who are your favorite music artists, past or present? Why?

I love all types of music. I grew up with R&B, Country music, and the beginning of hip-hop movement. At this stage in my life my music choices are usually upbeat or soothing. I tend to listen to House Music, Dance, Techno, and Contemporary Jazz. Some of my favorite Artists/DJs are Kyg and Calvin Harris. My favorite Jazz album is Next Collective which features a collection of some very talented jazz musicians. I also enjoy the expression of music through Ballet, Contemporary Dance and Musical theater.

What is your favorite adult beverage?

flavors. Working at RNDK has expanded my experience into new flavors and a variety of different brands. However, a Pinot Noir it is still my go-to drink for movie night as it compliments well with a bowl of popcorn and chocolate.