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**Lincoln University and Voices Underground  
2021-2022 Call for Papers**

***Seeking Freedom: The Underground Railroad in the Mid-Atlantic***

**[EXTENDED SUBMISSION DEADLINE: FEBRUARY 18, 2022](#)**

**Lincoln University, Pennsylvania March 31, April 1-2, 2022**

The Lincoln University Center for the Study of the Underground Railroad and Voices Underground, an organization focused on preserving and sharing the Underground Railroad's story, welcomes proposals for its inaugural 2022 conference, *Seeking Freedom: The Underground Railroad in the Mid-Atlantic*. The conference will take place at Lincoln University on March 31, April 1-2, 2022.

We welcome proposals from all fields and disciplines, from historians, preservationists, independent scholars, social scientists, community leaders, undergraduate, and graduate students. Of particular interest are the lower eastern middle states of Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, and southern New York. We encourage individuals who are researching sites of memory, the role of historically black colleges and universities (HBCUs) such as Lincoln University and Cheyney University, and the importance of the free and enslaved African American community through the end of the Civil War to submit. We also desire papers that explore any or all the diverse complexities of the UGRR, including known and unknown physical sites (homes, corridors, routes) and those that extract the voices of the unheard, invisible, and underrated. As such, we welcome research that demythologizes the story and memory of the UGRR. Individuals may also suggest and write on topics that are not listed if the subject falls within this symposium's overall theme. The following list provides possible areas of inquiry.

- African Agency
- Architecture
- Biographies
- Community Organizing
- Economy
- Law in the 19<sup>th</sup> century
- Literature
- Politics
- Propaganda
- Preservation
- Religious Institutions
- Resistance and Violence
- Spirituals/Songs

- Women in the UGRR

The organizing committee will consider individual papers, panels, and roundtables. Panels and roundtables must designate or suggest a commentator and moderator separate from the presenters. Each participant will be allotted twenty minutes to present.

Proposals for panels and roundtables should include a brief session description (one to two pages), the theme, a 300-word maximum abstract for each participant's paper, and a short bio (200-word max) of each participant including the moderator, chair and/or commentator. Proposals for individual presentations should also include an abstract (300-word max) and a short bio (200-word max). All submissions should include each person's C.V. or résumé (5-page max) including contact information (complete mailing address, the institution or organization's name (if applicable), an email address, and phone number). **Please use the following link to submit.** <https://www.lincoln.edu/lincoln-university-and-voices-underground-railroadconference-submission-form>

Participants are responsible for their own lodging and transportation.

Priority will be given to prospective participants who submit by **FEBRUARY 18, 2022**. After this date, the committee will review submissions on a rolling basis. We plan to announce the acceptance of regular submissions by **MARCH 1, 2022**.

Inquiries can be sent to Dr. Nafeesa Muhammad or Dr. Nora Gardner at [ugrrconference@lincoln.edu](mailto:ugrrconference@lincoln.edu)

Telephone: 484-702-9779

For further information please visit <https://www.lincoln.edu/ugrrconference>

### **Keynote Speaker: Dr. Spencer R. Crew**



Spencer R. Crew has worked in public history institutions for more than thirty years. He is currently the Clarence J. Robinson Professor of History at George Mason University and Emeritus Director of the National Museum of African American History and the National Museum of American History. Previous to Mason he served as president of the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center for six years and worked at the National Museum of American History, Smithsonian Institution for twenty years. Nine of those years, he served as the director of NMAH. He most recently served as the interim Director at the National Museum of African American History and Culture until January of 2021. At each of those institutions, he sought to make history accessible to the public through innovative and inclusive exhibitions and public programs. Crew has published extensively in the areas of African American and Public History. He also has curated numerous exhibitions the most recent one at the National Museum of African American History and Culture. He is a graduate of Brown University and holds a master's degree and a doctorate from Rutgers University. His most recent publication is *Thurgood Marshall A Life in American History*.