The celebration continued on Tuesday with a poetry jam and journal giveaway. This was followed by Wednesday’s globe-making activity in which students get the materials to make a globe of “fun colors and small trinkets that represent blackness” and Thursday’s “Shades of Melanin Brunch” where there will be more giveaways and students can get their shirts, slides, pins and more. On Friday, April 8, there is a spin-the-wheel activity and the BlackXperience Festival featuring food trucks, vendors, activities and live DJ’s on Saturday, last but not least, on April 8. To bring the week to a close, students enjoyed a “Shades of Melanin Brunch” at the State Ballroom.

“It’s important for students to celebrate their culture and backgrounds. It had a sense of students feeling happy they had something held to celebrate their identities. I went to the Shades of Melanin brunch. It was the only event I could attend because of my class and work schedule. I like it because of the unique theme where everyone wore shades of brown. I also appreciated the conversations being held there,” Rachel Cherry, a junior in communication, said.

Pan-African Week appeared to have a much higher turnout than in previous years due to the pandemic. The energy and excitement about the events improved significantly and there was not nearly as strict of a limit on the amount of people who could attend events in person.

“Experiencing Pan-Af week prompted me to realize how important it is to have a good community and support system around you that values and respects you for just being you. It also taught me that I should always be proud of my identity as a young black woman, and always celebrate myself, especially my culture, and my differences from others instead of stifling what makes me, me,” Houston said.

Each day of the week, a different event is held, starting with the “Say It Loud Kick-Off” at noon in the Talley Lobby during which students can add their identities to the chalkboard and make their own button pins.

**IMPORTANT TAKEAWAY THAT I SHOULD ALWAYS BE PROUD OF MY IDENTITY AS A YOUNG BLACK WOMAN**

- **SHAYLA HOUSTON**

The first event was a silent headphone party with three different DJs: DJ Zulu, DJ Pelu and DJ Double A. Performed on the kick-off.

The second event was a zumba class themed around soul and salsa music. Jordan Farrell was the instructor for the class.

The comedy show was the third event of the week and was hosted by comedian B Daht with Unaka accompanying him.

The fourth event was a fashion expose hosted by the African American Textile Society. Students from NC State and nearby colleges showcased their work.

The fifth event was organized by NC State’s National Pan-Hellenic Council. The Stroll-Off consisted of multiple rounds of NPHC greek organizations competing for atmosphere.

The sixth event was a festival organized by Black Students Board. The festival included a mechanical bull, rock climbing wall, trampolines, food trucks, and more.

The week ended with a brunch themed around shades of melanin attire. Organizations like Code Red and United Praise Gospel Choir performed at the brunch.

Pan-African Week Board organized a collection of events for Pan-African Week April 4 - April 10 to embrace and acknowledge Black culture.