



SYMPOSIUM  
**BLACK  
WO(MEN)  
SPEAK**

**Research Presentations**



SPEAKER

# Rev. Dr. Tammie Denyse MCL, M.Div., Ph.D.

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Project SOAR

[black-women-speak.org](https://black-women-speak.org)

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**BLACK  
WOMEN  
SPEAK**



**Project SOAR**  
Speaking Our African American Realities



Our community + academic partnership is based on our **Ubuntu model**



**Our Ubuntu approach:**

- Affirms that when I am the **best for me** then I am available to be the **best for you**
- Opens space for **self-care** & creates **safety**
- Allows researchers to **process** what was shared (eg. check-ins & check-outs)

*I am because you are*



**THE PROJECT SOAR PROCESS**

**PHASE 1**

3 culturally curated **GATHERINGS** in Sacramento, LA & Oakland

**All-Black** space honored ancestors.

**GATHERING AGENDA**

- 1 hour – Breaking bread & getting to know each other
- 2 hours – Q & A
- 1 hour – Breaking bread

We used our Ubuntu approach to **deconstruct** traditional focus groups and create **GATHERINGS**, a safe place for Black women

*Inspiration & Empowerment*



Building **COMMUNITY, CONNECTION** and **COURAGE** within each Gathering

**QUOTES**

from participants after the Gatherings:

“This was a **life changing** event for me.”

“I felt very much a **part of each woman's experience**... I believe that my cancer journey may have been quite different if I had had an **opportunity to talk with these women** after my diagnosis.”

“I try to be a bit **kinder** to myself and **stop trying to be superwoman**.”

• Sessions were **recorded**, listening to them changed our **experience with the data...**

• It was a way of **honoring the women's voices** and experiences

• Each person on our diverse team had her own **cultural responses to the recordings**.

**PHASE 2 Comprehensive ONLINE SURVEY**

• **Survey analyses** are currently being conducted



• Participants were excited to have their **voices heard** during this **emotional, valuable, and affirming experience**

**PHASE 3 THE JOURNEY CONTINUES...!**

**Hearing the Voices of Black Women with Breast Cancer**



**BLACK WOMEN SPEAK**

California Breast Cancer Research Program + **Tammie Denyse + Annette Stanton** (Carrie's TOUCH) (UCLA)

Creation of a **multicultural, multiethnic** team

