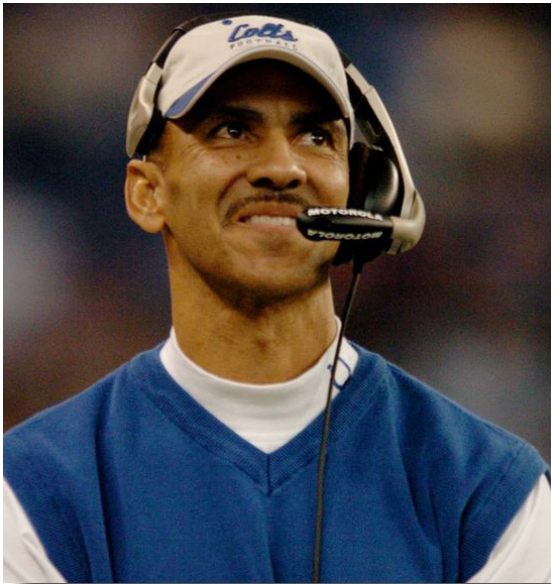


In Celebration of

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Throughout the month of February, Noble's Diversity & Inclusion Council will share some of the great achievements of Black Americans to our country and our world. To learn more about this initiative or the goals of the Council, please contact co-chairs Kelvin Solares and Molly Lang.



Tony Dungy

“If you're a leader, people's lives should be better because of the influence you've had along the way.”

From an article by Mike Kaye of NJ Advance Media, February 4, 2021

Born in 1955, **Tony Dungy** is a former professional American football safety, coach, and sports analyst.

He began his head coaching career in 1996 with the Tampa Bay Buccaneers, a franchise regarded as one of the league's worst. However, his leadership brought new success to the Buccaneers, leading them to four playoff appearances in six seasons. He went on to coach the Indianapolis Colts for seven seasons, qualifying for the playoffs in each. He led the Colts to victory in Super Bowl XLI—the team's first since relocating from Baltimore. **He became the first black head coach to win the Super Bowl.**

Since retiring from coaching after the 2008 season, Dungy has served as an analyst on NBC's *Football Night in America*. **He was inducted to the Pro Football Hall of Fame in 2016.**

Perhaps his greatest impact, however, has been his advocacy for the National Football League to diversify its leadership. On February 4, he sent a letter to NFL owners stating that the league he loves has a major problem when it comes to hiring minority coaching candidates. Just one of seven head-coaching vacancies was filled by a Black man this offseason. Just two minority candidates were hired during the entire head-coaching cycle: Jets head coach Robert Saleh and Houston Texans head coach David Culley. The Philadelphia Eagles, Detroit Lions, Atlanta Falcons, Los Angeles Chargers and Jacksonville Jaguars all hired white men to run their teams, despite the availability of well-qualified minority candidates.

Dungy says it's on the owners to make the hiring process more diverse and inclusive. "I believe our league has a problem that only you can fix," Dungy wrote in an open letter to NFL owners (via *NBC Sports*). **"The problem is we are not utilizing all of our resources because we aren't truly embracing minority hiring in every aspect of our game."**