

# DEI Committee NEWSLETTER



## October is LGBTQ+ History Month!

LGBTQ+ History Month was first celebrated in the United States in 1994, centering National Coming Out Day, which occurs annually on October 11th ([source](#)). Here are some ideas of what you could do in your classroom or at your school:

- Learn or teach about [these 31 influential people](#) from American History who identify as LGBTQ+.
- Choose a [new book](#) to read with your class.
- Wear purple on [Spirit Day](#), October 20. [Learn](#) about the movement and explain to students and coworkers why it matters to you.
- Check out the [resources](#) and [ideas](#) pages of the LGBTQ History Month Website for more ideas!

## Calendar - October

(Source: [Diversity Best Practices](#))

October is:

- Disability Employment Awareness Month
- LGBTQ+ History Month
- Global Diversity Awareness Month
- Down Syndrome Awareness Month

For more information about the following events and holidays, [click here](#):

**October 1:** Native American Women's Equal Pay Day.

**October 4:** St. Francis Day.

**October 6-14:** Navaratri, a Hindu festival.

**October 10:** World Mental Health Day.

**October 11:** National Coming Out Day (U.S.).

**October 11:** Canadian Thanksgiving

**October 11:** National Indigenous Peoples Day, an alternative celebration to Columbus Day.

**October 15:** Dasara, Dussehra, or Vijayadashami, in the eastern and northeastern states of India.

**October 18-19 (sundown to sundown):** Eid Milad un-Nabi or Mawlid Al-Nabi, an Islamic holiday honoring the birthday of the prophet Muhammad.

**October 20:** Sikh Holy Day, the day Sikhs celebrate Sri Guru Granth Sahib, their spiritual guide.

**October 20:** International Pronouns Day

**October 20:** Spirit Day to show solidarity with LGBTQ+ youth

**October 29:** Latinx Women's Equal Pay Day.

**October 31:** Halloween, or All Hallows' Eve

**October 31:** Reformation Day, a Protestant Christian religious holiday

**October 31-November 1 (sundown to sundown):** Samhain, a Gaelic festival marking the end of the harvest season.

We are accepting submissions: [Contact us](#) to contribute to this newsletter in the future.

## NEC Diversity events

**DEI Drop-in Group:** Join us for our monthly meeting Monday, October 25, 3-4 pm. Check your email for reminder and zoom link!

**NEC DEI Events:** Nov 2 All-Staff PD Day

### **Outside PD Opportunities:**

October 7, 3:00-5:00 - [A Reckoning in Boston Screening with ECLC](#). (Zoom event)

**Mailing List Link:** [tinyurl.com/nsecdiversity](https://tinyurl.com/nsecdiversity)

Join our mailing list to get regular updates on DEI-themed PD, articles, videos and more!

## DEI Keyword of the Month

With Halloween celebrations this month, remember that a culture is not a costume. Watch [this video](#) by Rosanna Deerchild for a helpful explanation of the differences between cultural appropriation and cultural appreciation:

**Cultural Appropriation:** “When someone takes elements from a culture not their own and remakes and reduces it into a meaningless pop-cultural item.”

**Cultural Appreciation:** “[When] you take the time to learn and interact, to gain understanding of a culture, or cultures, different from your own.”

## October 11 is Indigenous Peoples' Day!

In many states, towns, and cities across the US, Columbus Day has been replaced with Indigenous Peoples' Day. Click on the following links for resources you can use [for yourself](#) or your [elementary](#), [middle](#), or [high school](#) classroom. November is [Native American Heritage Month](#), so stay tuned for even more resources about and from indigenous peoples in the next newsletter!

## DEI In the News: CRT - Critical Race Theory or Culturally Responsive Teaching?

[Dr. Kenann McKenzie](#), director of the Aspire Institute at Boston University and Beverly school committee member, shares about “CRT” and how it can stand for two different terms, both stirring debate in education and in society. Listen for more in the podcast: [“What is CRT and are we getting it wrong?”](#)

**NEC Community Spotlight:** KOG interns Nina C & Maddy M are supporting our acknowledgement of Hispanic Heritage month at 112 Sohler Rd! They researched notable Latinos, 10 Latin American country flags. Not yet pictured are 10 traditional Hispanic dishes particular to specific countries. KOG teachers also received culturally appropriate curriculum ideas, activities, and adapted books related to Hispanic culture. Felicidades KOG interns and staff!



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