

# DEI Committee NEWSLETTER



## September is Hispanic Heritage Month!

September 15–October 15 is Hispanic/Latinx Heritage Month! Here are some ideas of what you could do in your classroom or at your school to celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month:

- [Find a new book to read with your students](#)
- [Download this Resource Packet](#)
- Visit this [Puerto Rican Art exhibit](#) in Haverhill
- [Use this site to research Latin American countries](#)
- [Use this lesson plan](#) or [this interactive](#) from PBS
- [Listen to music, cook a recipe, or appreciate art and culture](#) from Latin America
- [Learn a few Spanish words or phrases](#)
- Watch the Netflix show: [Street Food: Lat. America](#)

## Calendar - September

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

Hispanic Heritage Month is observed from September 15 to October 15. This month corresponds with Mexican Independence Day, which is celebrated on September 16, and recognizes the revolution in 1810 that ended Spanish dictatorship.

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

**September 4-11:** Paryushana Parva, a Jain festival.

**September 6:** Labor Day in the United States.

**September 6-8 (sundown to sundown):** Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish New Year celebration, marking the creation of the world.

**September 10:** Ganesh Chaturthi, a Hindu holiday.

**September 11:** Beheading of St. John the Baptist, a holy day observed by various Christian churches.

**September 11:** Ethiopian New Year.

**September 15-16 (sundown to sundown):** Yom Kippur, the holiest day on the Jewish calendar.

**September 18:** International Equal Pay Day.

**September 20-27:** Sukkot, a seven-day Jewish festival giving thanks for the fall harvest.

**September 22:** Ostara Mabon, a celebration of the vernal equinox.

**September 24:** Native American Day in California and Nevada.

**September 27:** Elevation of the Life Giving Cross (Holy Cross).

**September 27:** Meskel, religious holiday in the Ethiopian Orthodox and Eritrean Orthodox churches

**September 27-29 (sundown to sundown):** Shemini Atzeret, a Jewish holiday also known as The Eighth (Day) of Assembly.

**September 28:** Teacher's Day in Taiwan

**September 28-29 (sundown to sundown):** Simchat Torah, a Jewish holiday, marks the end of the weekly readings of the Torah.

**September 29:** Michaelmas, or the Feast of Michael and All Angels.

## NEC Diversity events

**DEI Drop-in Group:** Join us for our first meeting Monday, Sep 27, 3:00-4:00pm  
Check your email for reminder and zoom link!

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

**Outside PD Opportunities:** [IDEAS Fall PD Offerings](#), [Book club](#) and [Affinity group](#)

**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:

**What is DEI?** - Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

**Diversity:** how diverse your community is, including race, gender, sexuality & experience

**Inclusion:** when your community members feel like they belong, their identity and values are reflected in the community

**Equity:** the policies your organization implements that support diversity & inclusion; equality treats everyone the same, but equity recognizes all are different

[Read more here.](#)

## Diversity, Equity, Inclusion in Practice

TVA History teacher AJ Jerome regularly updates his bulletin board with an inclusive message. In June, in honor of Pride month, he included flags from the LGBTQIA+ community, with the message “Everyone is Welcome”. His board is located in a school hallway near an exit used by students and staff, so he likes to use this location to inspire conversation about diversity, equity, and inclusion in the school community.



## Article of the Month - Teaching about Hispanic Identity

Anti-racist Education Article of the month: Most people don't know that Mexican Independence day is NOT the 5th of May (also known as Cinco de Mayo), but in fact September 16th, 1810 was when Mexican independence day is commemorated (more than 50 years prior to the Battle of Puebla, on May 5, 1862). One of the ways in which you can be anti-racist is to learn about which holidays you are celebrating and what the meaning is behind it. You will then be able to share this knowledge with the students you work with and help them make an informed decision about whether something is culturally appropriate. Click to read: [Unmaking “Hispanic”: Teaching the Creation of Hispanic Identity](#)

## NEC Community Spotlight: Virtual training with Essex County Learning Community

Eric Aldrich, Dave Mercier, and Alie Dudley recently attended a Summer Institute offered through the Essex County Learning Community with notable speakers Debby Irving, Bettina Love, and Eddie Moore, Jr.

From Alie Dudley, KOG social worker: “I was struck by Bettina Love’s presentation; I appreciated her reminder that education is a highly racialized space that plays out differently for Black and Brown children, that White teachers need to attune to. As a White social worker in an educational setting, I am cognizant of the fact that I need to get to know all of our students & their specific cultures and identities, including those of White students. In Bettina Love’s article, “Dear White teachers...,” she points out that we can harm a child if we see their culture as an afterthought. Her presentation really resonates with me as I think about celebrating Hispanic Heritage month and the many identities people in Latino countries have - a spectrum of racial experience. I am reminded that we need to see the whole student in order to truly support educational success. Just as the Autism community says that once you meet one student with Autism, you met one student and learned their specific experience with Autism, the same holds true for identity and culture - there is a spectrum of experience for Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC).

A link to Bettina Love’s article can be found here: [Dear White Teachers...](#)

Link to her book about abolitionist teaching: [Bettina Love - We Want to Do More than Survive](#)

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