

# DEI Committee NEWSLETTER



## March is Women's History Month and Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month!

Here are some ideas of what you could do in your classroom or at your school:

- Find a new book about [Women's History](#) or [Disabilities](#) to read with your class.
- Watch [Crip Camp on Netflix](#) to learn about the fight for disability rights.
- Check out these classroom resources about [Influential Black Women in History](#) and [Inspiring Women Who Changed the World](#).
- Use or adapt [these lessons and activities](#) about Developmental Disabilities.
- Try out some of [these suggestions](#) for celebrating Women's History Month.

### Calendar - March

(Source: [Seramount](#))

March is [Women's History Month](#), [Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month](#), and [Deaf History Month](#)!

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

**March 1:** Lailat al Miraj, a Muslim holiday celebrating Muhammad's journey from Mecca to Jerusalem.

**March 1:** Maha Shivaratri, Hindu festival to honor Lord Shiva.

**March 1:** Mardi Gras or Shrove Tuesday, a celebration in some Christian denominations.

**March 1:** St. David's Day, the patron saint of Wales

**March 2:** Ash Wednesday, the first day of Lent on the Christian calendar.

**March 2 to March 20:** Nineteen-Day Fast, in the Bahá'í faith.

**March 3–5:** Losar, the Tibetan Buddhist New Year.

**March 6:** Cheesefare Sunday or Forgiveness Sunday, the day before Great Lent for Orthodox Christians

**March 7:** Beginning of Great Lent in the Orthodox Christian faith.

**March 8:** International Women's Day.

**March 9:** Asian-American Women's and Pacific Islander Women's Equal Pay Day.

**March 13–April 15:** Deaf History Month.

**March 13:** Orthodox Sunday, the first Sunday of Great Lent.

**March 16–17:** Purim, celebrating when the Jewish community in Persia was saved from genocide.

**March 17:** St. Patrick's Day, a holiday to recognize the patron saint of Ireland.

**March 18:** Holi, the annual Hindu and Sikh spring religious festival.

**March 18–19:** Lailat al Bara'a, aka Barat or Night of Forgiveness, an Islamic holiday of forgiveness.

**March 18–20:** Hola Mohalla, a Sikh festival on the day after Holi.

**March 19:** St. Joseph's Day, in Western Christianity.

**March 20:** Ostara, a celebration of spring by Pagans and Wiccans.

**March 21:** [World Down Syndrome Day](#) - see below for more info.

**March 21–22:** Naw-Rúz, the Bahá'í New Year

**March 21–22:** Nowruz/Norooz, Persian New Year

**March 21:** International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination,

**March 25:** International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade

**March 25:** Annunciation of the Virgin Mary, a Christian celebration.

**March 31:** International Transgender Day of Visibility.

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, March 28, from 3-4.

Check your email for reminder and zoom link!

### **Outside PD Opportunities:**

- Register for [this series of Anti-Racist Family Engagement Webinars](#) from DESE, starting March 9 at 1:30pm.
- Check out [this playlist of webinars](#) from The GBH Peer Exchange, many of which contain themes related to DEI and Culturally Responsive Teaching.

**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: Intersectionality

This month, as we commemorate and learn about the history of both women and people with developmental disabilities, it is important to think about how multiple identities can intersect and cause unique forms of discrimination. Kimberlé Crenshaw, who coined the term **intersectionality**, explains it in [this short video](#). She defines it as a “metaphor for understanding the ways that multiple forms of inequality or disadvantage sometimes compound themselves.” As education providers, we are responsible for considering how our students’ disabilities may intersect with their racial, sexual or gender identities, so we can provide equitable education and opportunities for all our students.

## DEI Article of the Month: Black Disabled Lives Matter

Black History Month may be over, but we can and should learn about Black History all year long! Check out [these articles](#) curated by the [Disability Resource Center](#) about Black Disability Advocates who have changed the world. Learn about Brad Lomax, Lois Curtis, Clifton Perez, and Johnnie Lacy and their contributions to the Disability Rights Movement.

## DEI In Action: Wear Colorful Socks for World Down Syndrome Day

March 21 is World Down Syndrome Day! The date (3/21) is significant because people with Down Syndrome have 3 copies of their 21st chromosome. Chromosomes look like socks, so many celebrate this day by wearing colorful or mismatched socks. Help raise awareness for the Down Syndrome Community with your socks! Consider inviting your students to participate as well - please send any photos you take to [Kristen](#) and we will put them in the next Newsletter.

## NEC Community Spotlight: Parenting a child with Down Syndrome



Leah Barnes, a staff member at NSAU, has a personal connection to one of our themes this month. We invited her to share her story: “Being a mother to a child with Down Syndrome has been the greatest gift. Our son was also born with a heart defect and underwent open heart surgery at 5 weeks old, we also have lots of appointments with specialists and visits to the Down Syndrome clinic.

So, while it does have its challenges and overwhelming moments, we would not change a thing and consider us to be the luckiest family on earth! Otto is the happiest boy that brings so much joy to everyone he meets!” Thank you for sharing your journey with us, Leah!



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