

# DEI Committee NEWSLETTER



## June is LGBTQ+ Pride Month and Immigrant Heritage Month!

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

- Find a new book for your classroom about [LGBTQ+](#) or [Immigration](#) topics
- Check out [these resources](#) and this [collection of stories](#) for middle school and high school teachers and students to learn about LGBTQ+ history.
- Look through this [list of ideas](#) to celebrate Pride month with kids
- Read this list of [tips and resources](#) for teaching about immigration to kids.
- Check out ReadWorks for free reading lessons about immigrants for grades [2](#), [4](#), [8](#), and [more](#).
- Learn about how to [support your immigrant](#) students or families.

## Calendar - June

(Source: Seramount)

June is [LGBTQ+ Pride Month](#) and [Immigrant Heritage Month](#)!

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

**June 4–6** (sundown to sundown): Shavuot, a Jewish holiday that marks the wheat harvest in Israel and the anniversary of the Jews receiving the Torah at Mount Sinai.

**June 5:** Pentecost, the celebration of the giving of the Ten Commandments by God at Mount Sinai

**June 12:** Trinity Sunday, observed in the Western Christian faith

**June 14:** Flag Day in the US

**June 15:** St. Vladimir Day, a Roman Catholic feast

**June 15:** Native American Citizenship Day, commemorating when the US passed legislation recognizing the citizenship of Native Americans in 1924

**June 16:** Corpus Christi, a Catholic holiday celebrating the body and blood of Christ in the Eucharist

**June 16:** Martyrdom of Guru Arjan Dev, the first Sikh martyr, observed by members of the Sikh faith.

**June 19:** Juneteenth, established as a federal holiday in June 2021, to honor the day in 1865 when slaves in Texas and Louisiana were finally freed, two months after the end of the Civil War.

**June 19:** New Church Day, according to some Christians, this day in 1770 was the beginning of the New Christian Church.

**June 21:** National Indigenous Peoples Day or First Nations Day, giving recognition to the indigenous populations affected by colonization in Canada

**June 24:** Litha, the summer solstice celebrated by Wiccans and Pagans.

**June 24:** Feast of the Most Sacred Heart, in the Roman Catholic Church

**June 29:** Feast Day of Saints Peter and Paul, a liturgical feast in Eastern Orthodox Christianity

**June 26:** Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer (LGBTQ+) Pride Day in the United States. It occurs on the last Sunday in June to honor the Stonewall Riots that occurred on June 28, 1969.

### **NEC Diversity events**

**DEI Drop-in Group:** Join us for our monthly meeting Monday, June 13, from 3-4. Check your email for reminder and zoom link!

#### **Outside PD Opportunities:**

- [IDEAS summer courses](#) - apply by June 15, receive member rates as an employee at NEC
- [PBS Webinar](#) about teaching History from diverse perspectives using Historical Fiction
- Learning for Justice Webinars: [Indigenous Peoples' History](#), [Student Mental Health](#), [Educator Self-care](#), [Best practices for LGBTQ+ Youth](#)

**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: Cisgender**

Transgender is a term that has gained more and more prominence over the last several decades, but its complementary term, **cisgender**, is one that you likely haven't heard as much. Check out this [short video](#) to hear an explanation of cisgender versus transgender. To sum it up, **cisgender people's true gender matches the gender that they were assigned at birth**, whereas transgender people's true gender does not match the gender they were assigned at birth. If you fit the description of cisgender, using this identity marker removes the idea of someone having a "default" or "normal" gender identity, which can help reduce stigma against transgender people.

### **DEI Article of the Month: Transgender and Nonbinary Youth in School**

Do you have transgender or nonbinary youth in your school community? GLSEN, an organization dedicated to helping LGBTQ youth in schools, has put together a [research brief](#) to help educators make their schools welcoming and supportive for transgender and nonbinary students. Trans and nonbinary students are more likely to report a hostile school environment (feeling unsafe at school, lack of belonging, targeted by peers, etc) than their cisgender peers. The report finds that supportive staff members, clubs, school policies, and curricula help support these vulnerable students. In the same vein, Learning for Justice also has a [guide for Supporting LGBTQ+ Students](#).

### **Local DEI Events: Juneteenth and Pride Month**

Juneteenth commemorates the day that the last group of slaves in Texas were freed after the Civil War on June 19, 1865. Check out [North Shore Juneteenth Association](#) for links to local Juneteenth events. There is also a [flag raising](#) and [family event](#) in Lowell.

Pride Month also involves a variety of events in the area. Check out [NAGLY](#) (Northshore Alliance of GLBTQ Youth) and [North Shore Pride](#) for information about local Pride Month events.

### **NEC Community Spotlight:**

#### **Podcasting at Northshore Recovery High School**

Students at Northshore Recovery High School conduct a weekly RHS History Podcast every Thursday in the RHS History room facilitated by History Teacher Jake Zeigler. RHS History Podcast participants discuss topics ranging from global politics to favorite ice cream flavors. Pictured below are RHS students participating in this past Thursday's episode. The podcasts are an excellent way to facilitate thoughtful student discourse regarding how current and past events impact their lives and the world around them.

Several of the podcast topics discussed by RHS students throughout this year have directly related to Diversity Equity and Inclusion themes such as implicit bias, white supremacy, domestic terrorism, and human rights for BIPOC and LGBTQ+ people. Email Jake at [jzeigler@nsedu.org](mailto:jzeigler@nsedu.org) if you'd like to learn more or be a featured guest on an upcoming Podcast!



(Pictured left to right are RHS students Jaiden Alcamisi, Bryan Lindsay, Brady Dempsey, Joe Gibney, and Kenny Cribbie)