

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](#)
- Look through [these resources](#) separated by grade levels from NEA
- Check out these [articles from Readworks](#) or this [text set from Newsela](#) in 5 reading levels
- [Use National Geographic Kids](#) to research Latin American countries such as Honduras or Peru
- [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 - Sept '22

(Source: [Seramount](#))

[Hispanic Heritage Month](#) is observed from September 15 to October 15.

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

September 5: Labor Day in the United States.

September 11: Ethiopian New Year.

September 18: International Equal Pay Day.

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

September 24: Native American Day in California and Nevada.

September 25-27 (sundown to sundown): Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish New Year celebration, marking the creation of the world.

September 26–October 5:

Navratri, the nine-day Hindu festival celebrating the triumph of good over evil.

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

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

September 28: Teacher's Day in Taiwan

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

NEC Diversity events

DEI Committee Meeting: Join us at our first in-person meeting of the year on **September 27, from 3-4pm**. We realize this time is not ideal for everyone, but **you can get paid for attending this first meeting**. The meeting will be in Beverly, but the specific location is TBA.

Mailing List Link: tinyurl.com/nsecdiversity

Join our mailing list to get regular updates on DEI-themed PD, articles, videos and more! Click the [link](#), then click "join group".

DEI Keyword of the Month: -isms: Racism

This is month 1 of our series on "-isms", and we wanted to explore one of the most commonly discussed "-ism": **racism**. For such a common term, the definition is not always clear cut, but we like the definition provided by Ijeoma Oluo in her book *So You Want to Talk About Race*: "a prejudice against someone based on race, when those prejudices are reinforced by systems of power" (p.27). Watch [this video](#) to learn more about the many different kinds of racism, such as interpersonal and systemic racism.

Plan ahead for a year of DEI-focused teaching and learning!

Last year, we started the DEI newsletter for two main reasons: (1) to give staff resources to start or continue the work of anti-racism, diversity, equity, and inclusion in their schools and (2) to highlight DEI work that is already being done at different sites across the consortium and facilitate cross-program learning. This year, we are going to be updating and adding new information to our monthly newsletters, but we encourage you to look back and plan ahead with a whole year's worth of resources and ideas already collected. We have a [google drive folder here](#) with all of last year's newsletters, and each program will be receiving a binder with printed versions for you to look through. **Next month is LGBTQ+ History Month and November is Native American Heritage Month - [contact us](#) if you would like to share resources or ideas for either of those months.**

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: Everyone is Welcome Here!

At the SOAR and Embark Adult Transition programs, signs and boards make it clear to students from the moment they walk into class that belonging and inclusion are important in their school. Last year, director Ellen Heald worked with DEI committee member/ESL teacher Kristen Vaisvila and Embark teacher Dan Fraser to make a plan for putting up signs around the school. They also worked together with students to

create a bulletin board in Dan's classroom highlighting diversity.



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