

Office of Equity and Inclusion

October Newsletter

October 01 | 2022

This Month's Issue will cover:

- Introduction
- Cascadia Scholars Update
- Hispanic Heritage Month
- Yom Kippur
- Indigenous People's Day
- Diwali
- Disability Awareness Month
- Diversity & Equity Center Updates

Important Dates

- **Sept 15th–Oct 15th | Hispanic Heritage Month**
- **Oct 4th | Yom Kippur**
- **Oct 10th | Indigenous People's Day (and event)**
- **Oct 14th | Cascadia Scholars Applications Due**
- **Oct 24th | Diwali**

Kim Jones Introduction

Welcome back everyone and happy Fall!

For a quick introduction for those who don't know me...

My name is Kim Jones and I am the new Program Lead in the Diversity & Equity Center. Until a few weeks ago, I was a part of Student Life in the Kodiak Cave. I am very excited to be here and I am ready to create an amazing space for students.

A bit about me, I am from Tennessee and have a dog named Hamilton aka Hammy and then 2 cats. One is named Mogget after a character from one of my favorite book series (The Abhorson series by Garth Nix) and the other is named Fat Cat because he steals all of Mogget's food. :)

I love finding things that are very small or large when they shouldn't be (you can see an example down below)

I can't wait to work together this year and feel free to reach out if you have any questions, comments, or concerns.



Cascadia Scholars Updates

Cascadia Scholars Program: providing mentoring, resources, and support for BIPOC, marginalized and underrepresented students. Scholarships are also available for those who qualify. The Program works with these historically underrepresented groups to help connect educational goals to academic and career journeys.

Our final deadline for Fall admission is on October 14th, 2022. Students can apply online on our webpage [here](#).



Hispanic Heritage Month

September 15th through October 15th marks the beginning and end of Hispanic Heritage month. The initial date was chosen because it coincides with the independence of several Latin American countries including Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua.

During Hispanic Heritage Month celebrates the amazing contributions that came from the Hispanic and Latinx community. Festivals are put on that showcase the rich and diverse culture that include dancing, music, food and storytelling.



Yom Kippur

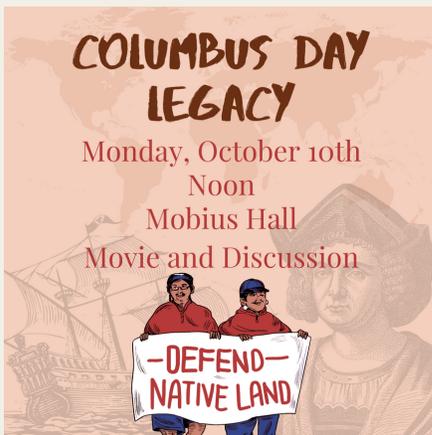
Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement, occurs this year between the evenings of October 4th and October 5th. It is known as one of the most important days of the Jewish year. This day holds a lot of meaning and significance to Jewish people who participate in Jewish holidays. It is observed on the 10th day of the lunar month of Tishri (coinciding with September and October). Yom Kippur is the ending of the holiday period that begins with Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish New Year.



Indigenous People's Day

From our new Faculty Victor Begay PhD, Indigenous Peoples Day is an opportunity to pause, reflect, and celebrate Indigenous communities. The second Monday in October serves as a federal holiday and a dark reminder of a nation's brutal history. Indigenous Peoples Day is an intentional act to shift the focus from a linear, biased perspective that reifies a false narrative to a fuller, more complicated interpretation of colonial invasion and Indigenous survivance.

If you have the time, check out the Indigenous People's Day event facilitated by Professor Victor Begay on October 10th!



Diwali

From Satarupa Joardar, Communication Specialist, Diwali, also called Deepavali, is the Indian festival of lights. It is one of the most popular festivals in India. While it is a religious festival among Hindus, Jains, and Sikhs, Diwali, much like Christmas, is celebrated by people of all religions and all backgrounds. Typically, people decorate their homes with diyas (clay lamps with a wick) and flowers. Some people also draw rangolis (colorful art patterns drawn on the floor or in front of the house). Religious people worship the goddess of prosperity, Lakshmi, and in some other parts of India, like in Bengal, the goddess Kali is worshipped. Diwali symbolizes spiritual victory of light over darkness, good over evil, and knowledge over ignorance. The day is spent in the company of friends and family, eating delicious food and sweets (mithai) and lighting fireworks.



Disability Awareness Month

From Bryan Fauth, Director of Accessibility & Student Support Services, Disability Awareness Month's original intent was to bring awareness to barriers facing the Disabled community in terms of employment. Historically, Disabled people do not have the same access to employment as others. In 2021, 19 percent of individuals with a disability were employed. In contrast, the employment-population ratio for individuals without a Disability was 66 percent ([Bureau of Labor Statistics](#)). While still focusing largely on employment, Disability Awareness Month has evolved over the years. Many organizations use this month as an opportunity to spread awareness to numerous issues and highlight individuals with all abilities.

Diversity & Equity Center Updates

Welcome back to the Center everyone! For those that don't know, it is located in CCI-002 next to the Lower Level Lobby elevator. The Center has some great events coming up including a cohosted Disability Awareness Month event and a workshop based around allyship in November. The Center is also working with the College 101 classes and the 150's to create informative programming for students. We are very excited for what is to come so please let your students know about the events that we will be hosting.



Citations:

- Blakemore, Erin. "Why Yom Kippur Is the Holiest Day of the Jewish Year." History & Culture, National Geographic, 3 Oct. 2022,
- The Library of Congress, et al. "National Hispanic American Heritage Month 2022." National Hispanic American Heritage Month 2022, <https://www.hispanicheritagemonth.gov/>.