



THE BRIEN CENTER

Diversity • Equity • Inclusion • Belonging

Your courage, our care.

NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2023

NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

Every year in November, Native American Heritage Month is celebrated to honor the remarkable Native Americans who have contributed to improve the character of the nation. This month is also referred to as the American Indian and Alaska Native Heritage Month. November is the time to rejoice in diverse and rich cultures, histories, and traditions and to appreciate the great contributions of the Native Americans. This month allows us to spread awareness about tribes or to educate people about the various challenges faced by the Native Americans in the past and today. Throughout this month, we commit to keep on supporting the remaining Native American tribes and let the world know about their sacrifices.

The first time American Indian Day was declared was in May 1916. In 1990, a joint resolution was approved by George H.W. Bush, which called for November to be named National American Heritage Month.



INCLUSIVE LANGUAGE HIGHLIGHT OF THE MONTH

"WE SHOULD GET TOGETHER AND POWWOW ABOUT THAT"

Powwows are social gatherings for ceremonial and celebratory purposes and are conducted under strict protocol. Using this phrase to refer to a quick business meeting denigrates the long, cultural significance of the powwow.

"LOW MAN ON THE TOTEM POLE"

Native American totem poles are very sacred items to the people who carve and display them. Figures carved on totem poles represent familial legends, clan lineages or notable events. In some communities, being low on the totem pole is actually a higher honor than being on the top.

TRANSGENDER DAY OF REMEMBRANCE

The Transgender Day of Remembrance is observed annually on November 20th to memorialize those who were murdered due to anti-transgender hatred or prejudice. The Day of Remembrance is held in November to honor Rita Hester, who was murdered in 1998.

The Transgender Day of Remembrance raises public awareness of hate crimes against transgender people and publicly mourns and honors the lives of transgender people who might otherwise be forgotten. This day affords individuals to express love and respect in the face of national indifference and hatred. It also gives transgender people and their allies a chance to step forward and stand in vigil, memorializing those who've died by anti-transgender violence.



MICROAFFIRMATIONS

Microaffirmations are small acts that aim to help or validate another. They are not just acts of "mini-kindness," they internally consider and validate differences in perspectives and experiences of the other person. Skillful microaffirmations are delivered with the intention of supporting another person from a place of compassion; taking into account the perspectives, thoughts, and feelings of the other person within the context of a society that privileges some identities over others.

Questions/Comments/Suggestions for the DEI Committee?

Contact Us: DEI@briencenter.org