



The Torch

Lighting the way for Diversity, Inclusion and Student Culture

August 2022 Issue | *Insight to Keep You in the Loop at EGCC*



Americans with Disabilities Act

July: Americans with Disabilities Act Signed

"The history of the ADA did not begin on July 26, 1990 at the signing ceremony at the White House. It did not begin in 1988 when the first ADA was introduced in Congress. The ADA story began a long time ago in cities and towns throughout the United States when people with disabilities began to challenge societal barriers that excluded them from their communities, and when parents of children with disabilities began to fight against the exclusion and segregation of their children." - Arlene Mayerson

Activists argued that without federal requirements in place individuals with disabilities faced discrimination as patrons in public spaces and while seeking employment, comparing their struggles to the Civil Rights Movement. In March 1990 a group of disabled individuals pulled themselves up all 100 steps of the Capitol Building highlighting the lack of accessibility in the nation. This was known as the Capital Crawl. Their efforts were rewarded, the house passed the bill with a unanimous voice vote and the Senate passed the bill 76-6. On July 26, 1990, President George H.W. Bush signed the Civil Rights Law known as Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

This law makes it illegal to discriminate against people with disabilities and provides protection in areas of employment, transportation, public accommodations, communications, and access to state /local government programs and services.

<https://national.govcalendar.com/national-disability-independence-day-july-26/>
<https://www.history.com/this-day-in-history/americans-with-disabilities-act-act-is-signed-into-law-george-bush>



Women's EQUALITY DAY August 26

Why is August 26 Women's Equality Day when the 19th Amendment gave women the right to vote nationally on August 18, 1920?

Though the constitutional amendment had been ratified, it was not official until the correct government official certified it. U.S Secretary of State Bainbridge Colby signed a proclamation behind closed doors, at 8 a.m on August 26, 1920.

Fast-forward to 1971 Congress officially declared August 26 as Women's Equality Day when Representative Bella Abzug championed a bill to designate this day to be recognized. Women's Equality Day is celebrated to commemorate the adoption of the 19th Amendment, which gave women the right to vote. This day also calls attention to the many efforts of continued working towards full equality.

<https://national.govcalendar.com/national-womens-equality-day-august-26/>
<https://www.history.com/this-day-in-history/august-26-women-s-equality-day>

FACULTY FEATURE - Black History Month Origins Written by: Dr. Mary Ann Costantini, instructor

KARLA'S KORNER



SEPTEMBER NATIONAL HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH



"My name is Jessica Castro I work as an Assistant Director and instructor for Aspire ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) in the Gateway Achievement Program. I'm originally from "La isla del encanto" (Island of the charm) Puerto Rico, Puerto Rico is a beautiful island that can fit at least 12 times in Ohio. This culture has been important in my life because it helps me define who I am and how I view my surroundings.

At the age of 17 my father as the elder child of nine travelled to Harrisburg, PA to look for a better life for his mother and siblings. He did not know English which it made everything even harder, but he was determined that he will bring his family to live their best lives. He worked in a restaurant washing dishes and about six months later he saved enough money to bring one of his brothers, a brief time after they brought their whole family. Almost 25 years later my parents went back to Puerto Rico and lived on the island for twenty years. We came back to the US in 2017 after hurricane Maria, thanks to my father's family. They had for us a house fully furnished, food and jobs to start. All of this was breathtaking for all of us, we weren't expecting anything, we were just grateful to them for bringing us to Ohio. And to have the blessing of the family was incredible.

This experience moved me to care not just for my family but for all of those that want to live a better life, those that are after a dream. I still remember when my mom asked me, "what do you want to be when you grow up?" My response was, I want to help people. Thankfully, I have the chance to help immigrants, mostly with language barriers. Also getting them enrolled in a college, helping them practice for an interview, practice for their citizenship test, or even helping them understand their letters. In my role as Aspire ESOL Assistant Director I had the opportunity to meet so many people from around the world with amazing stories and big dreams. My culture prides itself on helping and caring for others.

Hispanic heritage month we should remember what some Latinos have contributed to the US. Cesar Chavez, a labor leader and civil rights activist, fought for better wages and conditions for farmers. Sonia Sotomayor was the first Latina Justice to serve on US Supreme Court. Rita Moreno was first Hispanic woman to win an Academy Award. Hispanics and Latinos are usually very fun, determined, hard workers, humble and spiritual people. I hope to make a difference and make my Hispanics and Latinos proud."

Diversity Celebrations

JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER
French-American Heritage Month 7/4 - Independence Day 7/28 - 7/29 - Al-Hijri: Muslim start of New Year	Diversity Awareness Month 8/9 - International Day of Worlds Indigenous People 8/23 - International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition	9/5 - Labor Day 9/11 - Patriot Day 9/25 - 9/27 - Rosh Hashanah - Jewish New Year Festival	Upcoming Month - October Down Syndrome Awareness Month Filipino-American Heritage Month LGBT History Month

If you are a student or employee and would like to highlight articles, culture, or cultural recipes for upcoming months. Please send them to diversityoffice@egcc.edu



BLACK STUDENT UNION

The goal of the BSU is to serve as a means of promoting unity, success, and greater involvement for the Black student body. The BSU will meet its goals by providing information and organizing discussions based on political, educational, social, and cultural issues surrounding the African American community. We hope to provide cultural and historical enrichment to benefit the greater EGCC community.

If you are interested in becoming a member, please email diversityoffice@egcc.edu

BECOME A MEMBER!

