



SACRAMENTO  
STATE

FROM THE  
DIVISION  
OF  
**INCLUSIVE EXCELLENCE**

## HERstory Informs History

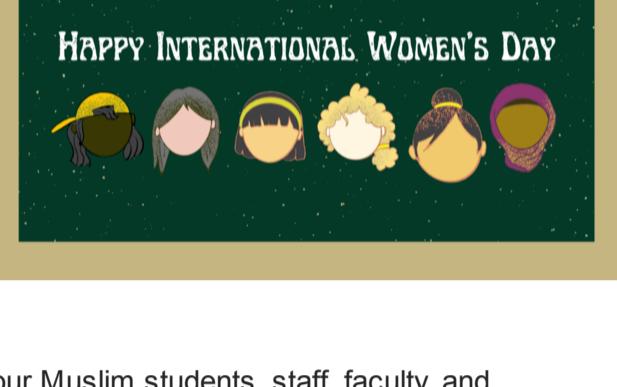
Dear Hornet Community,

March is designated as the month to observe women's history, and gender equality, and to raise awareness about developmental disabilities.

Additionally, Ramadan, one of the most important periods for

Muslims, this year is March 22 -

April 21. During this time, some of our Muslim students, staff, faculty, and administrators may request religious accommodations to aid in their Ramadan observances.



As we reflect on these topics, we would be remiss to not mourn the loss, honor the work, and celebrate the life of disability activist Judith Heumann. Judith was an integral leader of the Disability Civil Rights Movement and a trailblazer of the Independent Living Movement, which started in California in the 1970s. Heumann died Saturday, March 4, 2023, at age 75. From childhood, Heumann, a polio survivor, initially was denied an education based on unsubstantiated claims her wheelchair use presented a "fire hazard." Heumann's New York Times obituary captured her activist journey, saying she "spent decades attacking a political establishment indifferent to the rights of disabled people and won one fight after another, ultimately joining and reforming the very establishment she once inveighed against."

Judith, allied with the Women's Rights Movement and the Black Panthers, led a 28-day demonstration in 1977 in San Francisco that helped pressure the U.S. secretary of Health, Education and Welfare into signing important regulations for Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. She also played a key role in passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act 1990. A UC Berkeley graduate, she was its 1981 Alumna of the Year. In 2000, she was named one of 16 women who changed public health, and she served as a special adviser to President Barack Obama for International Disability Rights from 2010 through 2017. Judith's last official title was as a senior fellow at the Ford Foundation (2017-2019), advancing inclusion of disability rights in the foundation's advocacy work.

We hope this tribute to Judith Heumann encourages all of us to continue our journey at Sac State to becoming an antiracism, inclusive, and anti-oppression campus. Her life's work demonstrates how a person with intersecting socially marginalized identities can make a significant difference in the face of systematic discrimination, oppression, and exclusion.

To learn more about how her story shaped history, the Disability Civil Rights Movement, and disability and intersectional identities, please read Being Heumann: An Unrepentant Memoir of a Disability Rights Activist and Disability Visibility: First-Person Stories from the Twenty-First Century (2020), or watch and listen to the documentary, Crip Camp.

Sac State celebrates civil rights leader Judith Heumann, as a woman, a person with a physical disability, an activist for gender and disability equality, and an inspiration to us all. We will continue to work toward disability justice in HER name.

In partnership,

**Dr. Mia Settles-Tidwell**

**Vice President for Inclusive Excellence and University Diversity Officer**

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