



## FROM THE DIVISION OF INCLUSIVE EXCELLENCE

### Thank you for a successful Juneteenth at Sac State

**Dear Hornet Community,**

One word that describes our Hornet community's support for the inaugural Juneteenth at Sacramento State Celebration is WOW! Juneteenth is a celebration of the freedom of Black people from the bonds of slavery (1619-1863), and our celebration at Sac State freed us all. The Juneteenth Delegation team was expecting only 300 people, yet our campus community far exceeded expectations. We would like to thank you for showing up as allies, advocates, and freedom fighters against historic and current injustices. With your support, we celebrated liberty and freedom for all with joy, unity, and love.

Almost two years ago, we started a journey together believing we had some problems and believing we could do something about those problems. We committed our hearts, heads, and hands to becoming what no other institution has achieved: a community that is culturally grounded, human-centered, and free from hierarchies of human value. Yesterday, was a grand demonstration of how far we have come as a community. Individuals from nearly every division, department, center, culture, ethnicity, religion, non-religious, public, private, gender identity, disabled, and age group showed up to celebrate freedom.

Our facilities team started preparing the Main Quad at 7 a.m., and was the largest group to attend the festivities. The Community Engagement Center (CEC) and Anchor University volunteers checked in hundreds of people with an inclusive smile and excellent energy. The Division of Inclusive Excellence (special thanks to our student interns), Martin Luther King (MLK) Center staff, and Juneteenth delegation teams inflated hundreds of balloons, built balloon arches, distributed volunteer t-shirts, staged games, created signs, put up banners, and made the environment a place where everyone knew they belonged. Our community partners and clubs: Alumni Association/Black Alumni Chapter, Black Student Union (BSU), NAACP, Renaissance Society, Sacramento Black Chamber, Sacramento Juneteenth, Community Engagement Center, MLK Center, ABC10, and so many others enjoyed the full 3-hours of entertainment, food, history, dance, and games. We even gained some prospective future Hornets, as members of the Grant Drum Line Association and Dangerous Divas Dance Team shared their interest in attending Sac State.

Like any event, there are improvements that can be made. We would like to apologize for the long lines for the great food. In the future, we will provide a broader variety of meal options to reduce the wait time. We appreciate you for enduring the glaring sun and long lines.

The joyous celebration will continue this weekend as members of the Hornet community will be representing Sac State at the [Sacramento Juneteenth Festival](#) this Saturday, from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., at William Land Park. I encourage you stop by and join us at this event.

I would like to end this message with an email I received from a staff person who attended the event. She wrote, "I've worked here a very long time. Although there have been obligatory messages acknowledging Juneteenth, I never would have imagined us having such a wonderful event."

**In partnership,**

**Dr. Mia Settles-Tidwell**

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

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California State University, Sacramento  
6000 J Street, Sacramento, CA 95819  
(916) 278-6011 | [www.csus.edu](http://www.csus.edu)

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