

Celebrating Hornet Pride



Happy Pride Month!

Sacramento State values and supports the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer (LGBTQIA+) community year-round, and this June we join in the celebration of Pride Month. The celebration is rooted in the commemoration of the [1969 Stonewall Riots](#), for which Marsha P. Johnson was a prominent figure. Johnson pioneered the LGBTQIA+ rights movement and the fight against sexual and identity discrimination and police harassment toward members of the LGBTQIA+ community in the United States. A year after the riot, Brenda Howard (known as the “Mother of Pride”) organized the first Pride march commemorating Stonewall’s anniversary. Pride Month now is a worldwide celebration of sexual and gender diversity, lifting LGBTQIA+ voices, issues, and culture, and recognizing that community’s many societal contributions and significant impact.

California often has led the country in advancing justice for LGBTQIA+ individuals and recognizing their contributions. Honored are individuals such as [Harvey Milk](#), the first openly gay elected official in California history, who served on the San Francisco Board of Supervisors in 1977. Milk, a champion for gay rights, was assassinated by a former Board of Supervisors colleague in 1978.

In 1987, the AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power, or ACT UP, was founded in the U.S. to bring attention to the epidemic sweeping across international borders in the face of halting federal government action. It was the first organization of its kind to do so, and through its unwavering activism, ACT UP ultimately forced the government and scientific community to fundamentally change the way medical research was conducted – paving the way for the discovery of a treatment that today keeps alive millions of HIV-positive individuals around the world.

California in 1999 was the first state to recognize same-sex domestic partnerships and in 2003 legalized same-sex adoption. Additionally, the FAIR Education Act was signed in 2011 requiring California public school curriculum to include the political, economic, and social contributions of persons with disabilities and LGBTQIA+ people.

At Sac State we have wonderful resources such as the [PRIDE Center](#) and [Queer and Trans Faculty and Staff \(QTFAS\)](#) organization that provide safe, supportive, and empowering environments for students, staff, and faculty to celebrate, explore, and connect around sexual orientation, gender identity and expression. Every April our campus hosts Pride Week activities, which include Safe Zone training, lunches, picnics, drag shows, the Pride Fair, and a host of other uplifting events and celebrations for all members of the Hornet Family. On May 10, our campus celebrated the Class of 2022 at the Lavender Graduation with families, friends, and allies.

Despite measurable progress, members of the LGBTQIA+ community still face discrimination in their personal lives, the workplace, and across the public sector. Issues such as hate crimes, child custody rights, workplace and housing discrimination, marriage inequality, dehumanization, and exclusion challenge the life and well-being of the community.

I would like to conclude this message with words I expressed virtually at Lavender Graduation: “Oscar Wilde, said, ‘Be yourself, because everyone else is taken.’ We are here at Sac State to make life easier for the next generation of Lavender grads made at Sac State. If we do not remember anything else, remember this, turn pain into purpose, accept yourself first and everyone else will follow, and after the rain comes the rainbow.”

As a campus, our mission is to become an antiracism, inclusive, and healing campus. We must not only pause to celebrate Pride Month, but we must commit to year-round investments of time, space, and discussions that enact change and sustain this proud community.

In partnership,

Dr. Mia Settles-Tidwell,

Vice President for Inclusive Excellence & University Diversity Officer

[View Online](#)