

## Celebrating LGBT History Month



### Dear Hornet Community,

During the month of October and every day, we as allies, members, and supporters of the LGBTQ+ community, pause to celebrate and reflect on the indelible contributions of our LGBTQ+ community to challenge our nation, its constitution, policies and practices to be more just, accepting and inclusive of this vibrant and growing community. In 1995, the General Assembly of the National Education Association passed a resolution to include **Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender (LGBT) History Month** as a part of U.S. commemorative month celebrations. October was chosen because it coincides with National Coming Out Day (Oct. 11); Ally Week, born out of the Oct. 12, 1998, murder of Matthew Shepard; Spirit Day (Oct. 20), when purple is worn to support LGBTQ youth, and which marks the anniversary of the march on Washington for LGBTQ rights in 1979.

Our **Pride Center**, managed by coordinator Trinh Pham, moved its **PRIDE Week** activities to Oct. 17-21 to elevate and make visible our LGBTQ+ community. We encourage the entire campus community to join the PRIDE fair at 11 a.m. – 2 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 20, on the Library Quad. This wonderful fair will showcase the diverse resources, organizations, departments, and on- and off-campus partners to continue to build a strong network and connect the LGBTQ+ community with services that increase opportunities and advance our mission to ensure belonging for all.

We also celebrate and make visible our **Queer Trans Faculty and Staff (QTFAS)** Employee Affinity Group that has been instrumental in moving the agenda of the **Antiracism and Inclusive Campus Plan to action**. This group works to dismantle white supremacist ideology, cis-heteronormative mindsets, and patriarchal and ableist institutional practices, while building a strong network for employees. We encourage all who are interested to join this amazing group.

As the first openly gay U.S. senator, Tammy Baldwin said, “There will not be a magic day when we wake up and it’s now OK to express ourselves publicly. We make that day by doing things publicly until it’s simply the way things are.” We celebrate the history of the LGBTQ+ community and the civil and human rights that have been hard fought and gained over the years, yet we recognize that we still have more work to do to achieve true equal rights for this community. As we continue to bend the arc toward justice at Sac State, let us publicly embrace and uplift, open all closet doors, and join in the celebration of LGBT History Month.

**In partnership,**

**Dr. Mia Settles-Tidwell,**

**VP for Inclusive Excellence & University Diversity Officer**

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