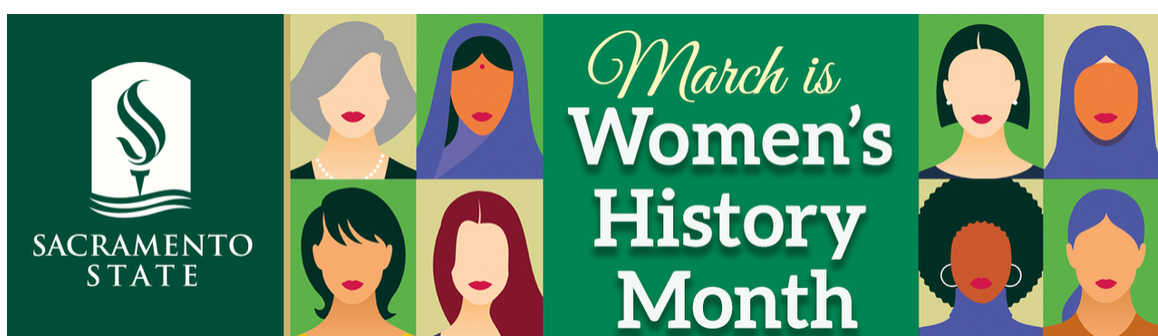


HerStory, Unfiltered!



"I raise up my voice – not so I can shout, but so that those without a voice can be heard. We cannot succeed when half of us are held back."

–Malala Yousafzai

These words from Nobel Prize winning womxn’s rights activist [Malala Yousafzai](#) remind us of the importance of seeking the views, understanding the lived experiences, hearing the unfiltered voices, and using our platform to shine a spotlight on herstory. In 1980, President Jimmy Carter issued the first presidential proclamation declaring the week of March 8 as National [Women’s History Week](#), which was expanded to the entire month of March by the U.S. Congress six years later. “Women Providing Healing, Promoting Hope” is the theme selected by the National Women’s History Alliance for the 2022 celebration. It honors the care, healing, and hope womxn of all cultures have provided throughout history.

Also known as Womxn’s HerStory Month, the name incorporates *herstory* to place emphasis on the role of womxn in telling and memorializing their own stories, elevating the multiple ways womxn have contributed to society, and challenging the reproduction of patriarchy, inequality, and misogyny. In addition, the use of the term womxn, coined by the 2016 Womxn’s March organizer Ebony Miranda, is meant to be inclusive of all womxn. The letter ‘x’ replaced the ‘e’ to signify the rejection of sexism, while offering greater inclusivity of women of color. It suggests the fluidity of gender and acknowledges explicitly that trans womxn are an integral part of this community.

Womxn’s HerStory Month is a celebration of all who identify and experience life through the lens of a womxn: cis and trans, femme, feminist, and femtor. It is a time to awaken the consciousness and remove the filter on womxn’s struggles within a male-privileged society.

Did you know that according to the 2020 Bureau of Labor statistics, womxn are paid 82 cents to every dollar a man is paid and that the gap is even wider when you factor in race? Did you know that womxn pay 7% more than men for everyday care products, clothes, and accessories, known as the “[pink tax](#)”? Did you know that womxn make up approximately 51% of the U.S. population, yet only 27% of Congress identify as womxn? Did you know that womxn are three times more likely to be the victims of sexual harassment, assault, and domestic violence?

The more revealing question is, do you care?

At Sacramento State, we care. There are many womxn and feminist men contributing to the Hornet community who care, like Dr. Sally Roesch Wagner, whose activism helped establish the Women and Gender Studies program on campus in October 1971. Marking its 50th anniversary, Dr. Sujatha Moni, current chair of the Women and Gender Studies and its faculty continue the legacy of empowering students to explore gender studies through a lens of intersectionality, and examine political projects through community involvement, activism, and internships. The Women in STEM Education (WISE) Employee Affinity Group cares and creates access pathways for women in STEM.

The Strategic Student Support Programs offers targeted programming through the Women’s Resource Center (Aisha Engle, coordinator) and the Pride Center (Tranh Pham, coordinator) that supports and develops students’ interest in promoting justice for womxn. 2021 - 2022 Associated Students Inc. (ASI) President Samantha Elizalde cares and demonstrates tremendous compassion through her efforts to author resolutions to provide support for students in need of basic living assistance, as well as working to establish a trauma-informed healing center. “Made at Sac State” alumna Catherina (Cat) Nou ‘09, director of the Office of Community Awareness Response and Engagement (CARE) for the California Department of Justice, showcases her care and passion for the AAPI and other underrepresented communities in her tireless efforts to ensure equity and representation in our state’s public policymaking.

Let us mark this month of celebration by uplifting audacious womxn like the [U.S. National Women’s Soccer Team](#) that most recently won \$24 million in equal pay [settlement](#). We want to celebrate the strength of womxn to create, innovate, endure, navigate, and successfully transform the workplace, classroom, and community with intellectual integrity, emotional intelligence, fearlessness, sensitivity, and care.

Some have tried to treat the power and the ethics of care and sensitivity as a liability, when in truth the ability to feel and offer empathy for others is an asset and is the highest form of evolution. It is up to each of us, womxn, trans and non-binary people, and men alike, to ensure that we are a healing, anti-oppression, antiracism, and inclusive campus – free of inequality, sexual harassment, violence, and discrimination. We honor those womxn who have courageously challenged the status quo and cared enough to make this campus, the surrounding Sacramento region, and our nation places of equality, equity, inclusion, and belonging.

In partnership,
Dr. Mia Settles-Tidwell
Vice President for Inclusive Excellence & University Diversity Officer

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