*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 women’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 celebration. It honors the care, healing, and hope women of all cultures have provided throughout history.

Also known as Women’s HerStory Month, the name incorporates herstory to place emphasis on the role of women in telling and memorializing their own stories, elevating the multiple ways women 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 Women’s March organizer Stepheehy Miranda, is meant to be inclusive of all women. The letter ‘x’ is used to signify the rejection of sexism, while offering greater inclusivity of women. It suggests the fluidity of gender and acknowledges explicitly that trans women are an integral part of this community.

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

Did you know that according to the 2020 Bureau of Labor statistics, women are paid 24 cents to every dollar a man is paid and that the gap is even wider when you factor in race? Did you know that women pay 7% more than men for everyday care products, clothes, and accessories, known as the "pink tax"? Did you know that women make up approximately 51% of the U.S. population, yet only 27% of Congress identify as women? Did you know that women 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 women and feminist men committed to creating a home community, 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. Suphajee Sontakke, 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 (Tranch Pham, coordinator) that supports and develops students’ interest in pursuing STEM careers. 2021 - 2022 Associated Students Inc. (ASI) President Samantha Elizalde cares and demonstrates tremendous compassion promoting justice for women. 2021 - 2022 Associated Students Inc. (ASI) Transgender Equity Coordinator Tranh Pham, coordinator)

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

"FROM THE DIVISION OF  
INCLUSIVE EXCELLENCE  
SACRAMENTO STATE  
UNIVERSITY"