

From: Official ESU Email

Sent: Thursday, December 10, 2020

Subject: Holiday Greetings to all ESU Warriors from Dr. Santiago Solis - December 10, 2020

Happy Holidays Warriors!

As a challenging year comes to an end, the holiday season allows us to reflect on the things we value the most in life. For many of us, 2020 has been stressful: remote learning, limited interactions with family and friends, racial injustice, and a deadly pandemic.

So, during these times of uncertainty, what brings you joy? Maybe its stringing lights on the Christmas tree, watching *Home Alone* for the 100th time, or simply listening to your favorite holiday song by Nat King Cole. The holidays create excitement for various reasons like eating the “not so healthy” foods we love, catching up with loved ones near and far, and exchanging gifts with colleagues to show our appreciation for each other.

Our Jewish Warriors will celebrate Hanukkah beginning the evening of December 10 through December 18. This beautiful tradition includes the lighting of the menorah, feasting on latkes (potato pancakes) and sufganiyot (jelly doughnuts), and fellowship with family and friends. Some Warriors are looking forward to celebrating Christmas on December 25th by reminiscing on childhood memories: elves on shelves, grandma’s sweet potato pie, and opening gifts at midnight.

Some Warriors will pay tribute to the seven principles of Kwanzaa from December 26 through January 1. This festivity unifies and strengthens the African American community, which is especially important this year given the racial unrest. Kwanzaa is celebrated by people from various cultural and religious backgrounds. Some Warriors will celebrate by honoring the Three Wise Men, or Three Kings, 12 days after Christmas on January 6. As part of the observance, they may add the Three Kings to a nativity scene displayed under the Christmas tree.

Although we celebrate the holiday season in different ways following different traditions, we are all connected as Warriors. Regardless of how, where, or with whom you celebrate, we wish you a joyful and peaceful holiday season. Fellow Warriors, may the New Year bring you much deserved happiness and prosperity.

Dr. Santiago Solis

Pronouns: He/Him/His

Black Lives Matter!

Vice President, Campus Life & Inclusive Excellence

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