

From: Official ESU Email
Sent: Thursday, October 15, 2020
Subject: LGBTQA+ History Month

Warriors,

First celebrated in 1994, October is LGBTQA+ History Month. This month-long observance of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer history raises awareness of historical injustices, violence, and inequalities that many in the LGBTQA+ community still experience today. LGBTQA+ History Month also provides a platform to celebrate role models, build community, and affirm our sexual orientations and gender identities. I consider LGBTQA+ History Month more than a celebration. It is a movement. It is a form of resistance against homophobia and transphobia. It is an opportunity to educate, to listen, to learn. I encourage you to take time to read about and honor the many trailblazers and activists who continue to fight for equal rights for LGBTQA+ individuals locally, nationally, and internationally. One way to do this is to visit the LGBTQA+ History Month website at <http://www.lgbthistorymonth.com/>. Every day they celebrate a different icon or trailblazer that contributed to the collective movement and freedoms that we have today.

For the first time this year, the Pocono Chamber of Commerce organized Pocono PRIDE Community Day! ESU's Gender and Sexuality Center participated to support the event and LGBTQA+ community. Several ESU students and alumni were also in attendance. Go Warriors!

ESU cemented its commitment to gender and sexuality inclusivity when it founded the [Gender and Sexuality Center](#) in 2018. The Center offers a variety of programs and services including Safe Zone and Advanced Safe Zone training for ESU community members interested in becoming LGBTQA+ allies and advocates. The Center also works with and supports different student organizations and groups. Earlier this week, the Center in collaboration with the [Center for Multicultural Affairs and Inclusive Education](#) featured Nu'Rodney Prad as the 2020 LGBTQA+ History Month Keynote Speaker. Prad spoke about intersectionality in the era of social justice and social movements. For more information about the Gender and Sexuality Center, contact Interim Director, Ariel Tucci at atucci@esu.edu.

As we move forward through the rest of the month, remember that while we celebrate LGBTQA+ individuals' accomplishments to our collective growth during the month of October, we are not and should not limit our education around the needs of this growing community to this time period. The history and accomplishments of marginalized communities are nearly absent from our formal education and media. What can you do to change that?

Dr. Santiago Solis
Pronouns: He/Him/His
Black Lives Matter!
Vice President, Campus Life & Inclusive Excellence
East Stroudsburg University
200 Prospect St. | East Stroudsburg, PA 18301