

NCBI at CSUMB

Otter Inclusivity

Newsletter

Compiled and Edited by Steven Goings, aka

Quazar

EDITOR'S NOTE:

When reading this email you are likely to get a message at the bottom that says: [Message clipped] [View entire message](#)

Make sure to click on "View entire message" and the FULL newsletter will open in a new tab.

Throughout this newsletter, Blue Underlined copy indicates a searchable link.

The purpose of this Otter Inclusivity newsletter is...

1. to promote the principles & philosophy of the National Coalition Building Institute; particularly in the areas of multicultural community building and healing from the impact of identity-based oppression,
2. to promote and communicate the activities of the CSUMB President's Committee on Equity and Inclusion, including Priority 2 -- Inclusive Excellence -- of CSUMB's Strategic Plan
3. to be a forum for and promote the activities of the many CSUMB community affinity groups as well as the equity and inclusion work of campus and community partners.

1) to Subscribe to Otter Inclusivity [click here](#)

2) To submit an event to Otter Inclusivity for possible publication, click on this link: [Affinity Group Event/Awareness Form](#)

3) To submit a "My Take" guest article, send a word document (NOT pdf!) along with your name and email address to sgoings@csumb.edu

4) To submit a "In the Spotlight" biography and picture of a community leader, send a word document and digital picture to sgoings@csumb.edu



California State University, Monterey Bay (CSUMB) resides on the indigenous homeland of the Esselen people (also known as Carmeleno, Monterey Band, and Rumsen). It is on the rich homeland of the Esselen, where CSUMB not only thrives as an institution of higher education, but also provides an education abundant with service and experience to a diverse community of learners. As our students, staff, faculty, alumni, and community members explore the university's campus, remember to respect the land and take note of the natural beauty. Remember that ancestors rest below pathways and in other less traveled areas on campus.

We Are Here - Let Ka Lai

If you would like to support or learn more about the Esselen people, please visit EsselenTribe.org and OhloneCostanoanEsselelnation.org

In the Spotlight:

October 2023 Cultural Heritage Celebrations



Check out the [Cultural Heritage Calendar](#) each week in order to know what parts of the CSUMB community are being honored and celebrated

throughout the year. Celebrations in October include:

Hispanic/Latinx Heritage Month

- Sept 15 - Oct 15.

October 1 - October 31

- Employees with Disabilities Awareness Month
- Filipino American Heritage Month
- German American Heritage Month
- Italian American Heritage Month
- Polish American Heritage Month
- LGBTQ+ History Month

Columbus Day

- October 9

Indigenous Peoples Day

- October 9

World Mental Health Day

- October 10

National Coming Out Day

- October 11

Halloween

- October 31

November cultural celebrations includes **Native American Month**. Members of these communities are especially encouraged to start posting in the [Proud to Be Otters Campaign](#). We will post some of your responses and celebrate you and Native/Indigenous Communities in the November 2023 Edition due out on October 31st.

Trans and Nonbinary CSUMB Student Needs Assessment



California State University
MONTEREY BAY
Personal Growth & Counseling Center

Rob Johnson, one of the doctoral interns in the Personal Growth and Counseling Center, is conducting an assessment of the needs of transgender, non-binary, and gender expansive students at CSUMB.

The goal is to determine how both the Counseling Center and the University as a whole can better serve this community. Here is the link to

the 5-10 survey:

https://csumb.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_enBFtGxtMHEMWGi

Please feel free to share with anyone who may be interested!

Otter Cross

Cultural Center

events

highlight

LGBTQ+

History Month



OTTER CROSS CULTURAL CENTER

Downloaded from [CSUMB](#)
[News](#)

October is LGBTQ+ History Month and the Otter Cross Cultural Center (OC3) has two related events on the schedule.

At noon Friday, Oct. 6, as part of its Freaky Friday series, OC3 is sponsoring a decorating event at the Maker Space on the third floor of the Tanimura & Antle Family Memorial Library. Creative materials will be provided.

The following Friday, Oct. 13, the organization sponsors the Werk Witch Drag Show at 7 p.m. in the Otter Student Union Ballroom.

Steven Goings is a faculty member and counselor at the Personal Growth and Counseling Center and goes by a gender-neutral name, Quazar. They said it is important to recognize diversity during LGBTQ+ History Month.

“As a trainer for the National Coalition Building Institute,” Quazar said, “one of our primary principles of welcoming diversity is the recognition that every group counts and every aspect of our multifaceted identities matter. Cultural heritage months such as LGBTQ+ History (October), Black History (February), Women's History (March) and many others, are opportunities to reflect on the many contributions made by members of these populations. It

is also an opportunity to recognize the many injustices and hardships these groups have often endured and to celebrate their resilience.”

This is especially true now, they said, when “forces of oppression and suppression are once again attempting to roll back hard-won advances and to criminalize our cultural customs (such as drag-shows), behaviors (such as same-sex affection, queer aesthetics, gender-defying norms) and identities (particularly trans and non-binary).

“CSUMB's commitment to inclusive excellence includes doing its best to ensure that our campus continues to support and celebrate its LGBTQ+ students and employees.”

MB
OTTER
THURSDAY

OTTER THURSDAY PEP RALLY

SHOW OFF YOUR SCHOOL SPIRIT AND
WEAR YOUR OTTER GEAR!

THURSDAYS 12-1:15PM
OSU MAIN QUAD PLAZA

Experience Otter Thursday with a weekly pep rally at the OSU! Each week we'll be joined by different campus partners, activities, and a new free food item, so make sure you stop by!

Register on MyRaft TODAY!

#OtterThursday



PROUD TO BE OTTERS CAMPAIGN

At CSUMB We PROUDLY Celebrate ALL
Community Members, including:

- Students, Staff, Faculty, Administrators, Maintenance
- Departments, Colleges and Majors
- Social Identities
- Cultural Affiliations
- Religious and Political Orientations
- Languages and Nationalities
- Economic and Immigration Status

**Tell Us What Groups Make YOU Proud
at the Proud to Be Otters Campaign!**

National Coalition
NCBI
Building Institute
@ CSU Monterey Bay



President's Committee
on Equity and Inclusion

What is
OUTSTANDING and
makes you proud to
identify with your
group?

What do you **NEVER**
want to have people
think, say or do to
you as a member of
your group?

What ways would
you like people to
ALLY and **SUPPORT**
you as a member of
your group



Proud to Be Otters Campaign Spotlight: People with Disabilities, LGBTQ+, Latinae & Filipino Communities

Thanks to our recent contributors! Here is what some had to say:

Betsi Solis,
Alumni: Class of 2015,

CHHS BA,
& Current CSUMB Staff:
El Centro Co-Director,
MAESTROs Project
Coordinator

On... Chicana

What is OUTSTANDING and makes you proud to identify with this group?

Getting ahead in education and gaining access to opportunities for growth and development as a Chicana was not always easy, especially with the lack of support and guidance from migrant, Spanish-speaking parents, so being a Chicana who has gotten this far, and is shooting to keep growing and set examples is an amazing feeling and experience. PROUD CHICANA!

What do you NEVER want to have people think, say or do to you as a member of this group?

I never want people to assume that we are more Americanized Mexicans, because we were born in the US. We can still love and keep our heritage traditions, even though we were not born in our family's origin country.

What ways would you like people to ally with and support you as a member of this group?

It's always great to see older/experienced Chicanas mentoring and offering support/tips to the next generation(s) of professionals and students.

Add your voice to the Proud to Be Otters Campaign at the
[Proud to be Otters" Awareness Campaign Form](#)



**Valerie
Madriaga
Elder,** Junior
Year, Social and
Behavioral Sciences
Major, Sociology
Concentration,
Transfer student

from Monterey Peninsula College.



On... Filipinos

What is
OUTSTANDING
and makes you
proud to identify

with this group?

Filipinos have contributed so much to American history, especially here on the Central Coast.

What do you **NEVER** want to have people think, say or do to you as a member of this group?

I never want to be discriminated against for being Filipino.

What ways would you like people to ally with and support you as a member of this group?

I would like people to learn about Filipino American history.

Add your voice to the Proud to Be Otters Campaign at the
Proud to be Otters" Awareness Campaign Form

Carl Vizcarra,

Senior year, Psychology major; Associated Students Basic Needs Senator

On... Visually impaired/Blind

What is
OUTSTANDING and
makes you proud to
identify with this group?



The tasks and activities that I am able to do—given that the corresponding accessible format.

What do you NEVER want to have people think, say or do to you as a member of this group?

For people should not assume that I may not be able to participate in such activity or task.

What ways would you like people to ally with and support you as a member of this group?

People should treat me and people with visual impairment in a sense that we are also people!

Add your voice to the Proud to Be Otters Campaign at the
Proud to be Otters” Awareness Campaign Form



Jillian Talley,

Assistant Professor of
Education and
Leadership, PhD,
NCSP

**On... Person with a
Learning Disability:**

**What is
OUTSTANDING and
makes you proud to
identify with this
group?**

In 4th grade, I was
diagnosed with a
specific learning
disorder in reading

(formally called Dyslexia). Over time I learned to be proud of my learning differences and how it made me a better learner. I love that I think of things differently, and I understand the importance of providing differential instruction. I also believe that having a learning disability taught me to see failure as important step of learning and not something to fear. My struggles in school are the reasons I became a school psychologist; I wanted to help students with disabilities find joy in learning and pursuing their dreams.

What do you NEVER want to have people think, say or do to you as a member of this group?

I become frustrated when people generalize disabilities. If you met one person with a reading disability, you met one person with a reading disability. Although people may have similar struggles, what causes strife for one person might be a strength for another person with that disability. If the person with a disability is asking for support, listen to what they need rather than assuming you already know.

What ways would you like people to ally with and support you as a member of this group?

Universal design and differential instruction not only helps students with disabilities but it helps everyone. Presenting information in multiple ways, or making a space more accessible, you not only help those with disabilities but so many more.

Add your voice to the Proud to Be Otters Campaign at the
[Proud to be Otters" Awareness Campaign Form](#)

Michelle Sandoval,
Senior, Social & Behavioral
Sciences Major, Sociology
Concentration

**On...People with
Disability (dyslexia)**

**What is OUTSTANDING
and makes you proud to
identify with this group?**

I know I am not alone! Steve
Jobs and Gov. Newson are
dyslexic



What do you NEVER want to have people think, say or do to you as a member of this group?

Say things like "special" or the "r" word

What ways would you like people to ally with and support you as a member of this group?

Offer help and don't make it a big deal

Add your voice to the Proud to Be Otters Campaign at the



Tyler St. Peirre-Young,
Accessible Media & American
Sign Language Accommodations
Coordinator, Student Disability
and Accessibility Center

On... Gay Man

What is OUTSTANDING and makes you proud to identify with this group?

Growing up as a gay man has helped shape me into a resilient, adaptable, and caring person. I

am incredibly proud to be gay, and I am thankful to be part of such a loving and vibrant community.

What do you NEVER want to have people think, say or do to you as a member of this group?

I don't want people to buy into harmful stereotypes about gay people, or to make assumptions about who I am based on my sexual orientation.

What ways would you like people to ally with and support you as a member of this group?

I want people who support me as a gay man to support ALL members of the LGBTQ+ community, not just gay/lesbian folks. This means standing in solidarity with the transgender and non-binary community especially, by listening to their stories and helping to lift them up.

Add your voice to the Proud to Be Otters Campaign at the
Proud to be Otters" Awareness Campaign Form

QUEER-ENNIAL

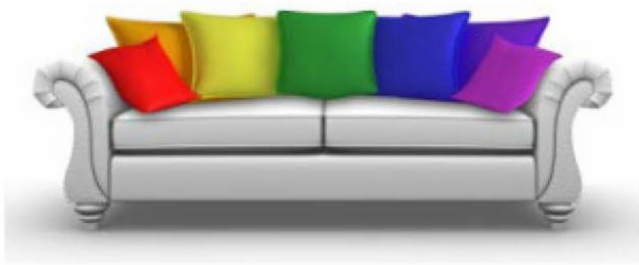
A STORY OF ARMOR



Artist: Joel Hernandez

September 1 - November 12, 2023

www.maclaarte.org | IG @macla_sanjose



Weds 3:30 to 5pm

Sept 13 – Dec 13, 2023

Register at <https://csumb.edu/pgcc/groups/>

LGBTQIA+

COUNSELING & SUPPORT

A Personal Growth and Counseling Group

Developed with and for LGBTQ+ Students

Facilitated by Quazar (Steven Goings), LCSW & Rob Johnson, Psychology Graduate Student Doctoral Intern

For Disability Accommodations, Contact Steven Goings at sgoings@csumb.edu

HEAL

Impact of anti-queer oppression & discrimination

Develop Pride

**Self Esteem
Personal Growth
Sense of Belonging**

GET SUPPORT

**Coming Out
Building - Community
Life Challenges**

LEARN

Stages of Positive Queer Identity Development

CELEBRATE

Queer Student Accomplishments

**CEPANOVA ARTS
PRESENTS**



***Exploring Cultura
Through Calaveras
with Mr Ricardo***

September 27 to October 25
5pm to 7pm

Artists Ink Creative Studio
1 Midtown Lane
Salinas, CA, 93901

www.artistsink.org
[@artists_ink](https://www.instagram.com/artists_ink)





OTTER CROSS CULTURAL CENTER PRESENTS:

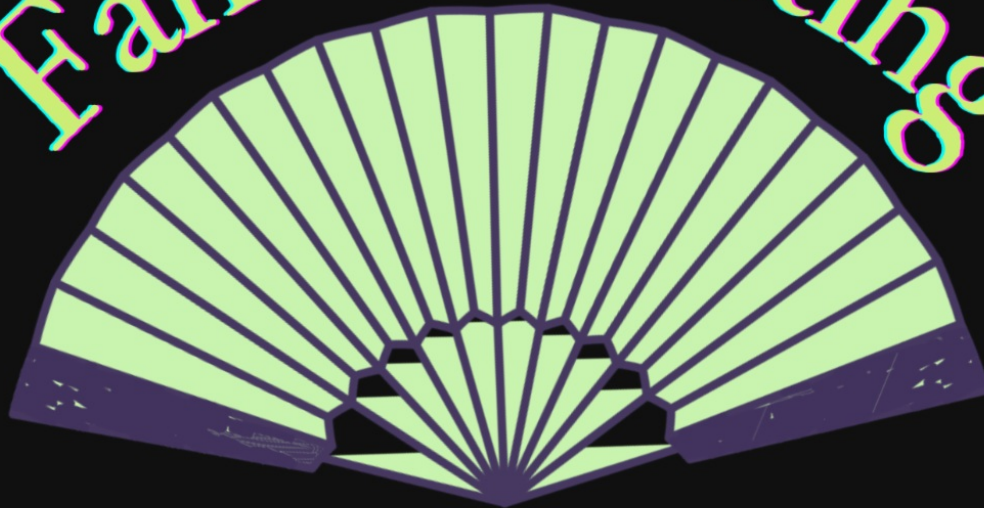
FREAKY FRIDAYS

WERK WITCH SERIES



OC3

Fan Decorating



JOIN THE OC₃ AND THE MAKERSPACE IN DECORATING FANS FOR THE
ENCHANTING WERK WITCH EVENT!

ALL SUPPLIES WILL BE PROVIDED!

JOIN US IN THIS CRAFTS EVENT AND LET YOUR IMAGINATION
FLOURISH AS YOU DESIGN YOUR OWN STUNNING MASTERPIECE!

FRIDAY
OCTOBER 6TH
12PM
IN THE MAKERSPACE

(LIBRARY ROOM 3125 THIRD FLOOR)

SIGN UP ON



MYRAFT



You are cordially invited to attend the inaugural

Pride in Maritime Summit

October 11 - 13th, 2023

200 Maritime Academy Drive, Vallejo, CA 94590

Join us for a week of workshops, panels, keynote speeches and entertainment, centered on LGBTQ+ people in the maritime industry. Come build community, learn how to advance your career, and work to positively impact your workplace.

PINK PEARL

LGBTQ+ SOCIAL MIXER

Thursday

OCTOBER 12TH, 2023

SALINAS VALLEY PRIDE
KICKOFF PARTY
WITH DJ LUNA.M

7:00 PM TO 10:30 PM

NO COVER

21+ WITH VALID ID

PEARL HOUR 214 LIGHTHOUSE AVENUE MONTEREY, CALIFORNIA 93940

OC3

OTTER
STUDENT UNION



WERK WITCH DRAG SHOW

FEATURING PROFESSIONAL DRAG QUEENS
TALA, TORI TIA, AND KOCHINA RUDE
WITH SPECIAL GUEST AYUMI PLEASE AS MC

FRI, OCT. 13 AT 7PM • OSU BALLROOM
DOORS OPEN AT 6:30PM

JOIN US FOR A SPELL-BINDING NIGHT!

Celebrate the beautiful history of drag culture with our Werk Witch Drag Show. Werk Witch is an intersectional drag show that encourages drag queens, kings, and non-binary performers to let their brilliance and diva shine bright like a diamond.

SEATING IS LIMITED!

REGISTRATIONS OPEN FRIDAY, OCTOBER 6 AT 5PM

LEARN MORE AT [CSUMB.EDU/OC3/WERK](https://csumb.edu/oc3/werk)

IN-PERSON
REGISTRATION



LIVESTREAM
REGISTRATION



For questions and accommodations, please email oc3@csumb.edu



CSUMB BSU

FRIDAY THE 13TH

ART NIGHT,
PAINT
PUMPKINS,
GIFT BASKET,
MUSIC, FOOD



SÈANCE

CANNERY ROW

Cannery Row



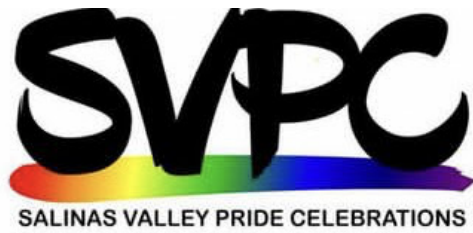
THE BACK ROOM AT ZUCCHINI'S

FRIDAY & SATURDAY - 8:00PM

711 CANNERY ROW, SUITE H
MONTEREY, CA 93940
WWW.ZUCCHINIMAGICSHOP.COM

1/2 PRICE
TICKETS





Salad Slay: The Freshest Drag Comp.

**Sign up to participate in our drag competition
live during Pride! Grand prize is \$250.**

Register online: tinyurl.com/SaladSlay



Oct
—14 **2023**
11 AM - 3 PM



420 Central Ave,
Salinas, CA 93901

www.SalinasValleyPride.com
@SalinasVPride





SALINAS VALLEY PRIDE VACCINE CLINIC

Offering both Jynneos and flu vaccine!

Scan QR code or visit myturn.ca.gov
to schedule an appointment.
Walk-ins available!



Central Park

420 Central Ave,
Salinas, CA 93901

October 14th, 2023

11:00am-3:00pm

The Jynneos vaccine provides protection against MPOX, anyone who is interested may receive the vaccine. For the latest information, please visit www.mtyhd.org/monkeypox.

Flu vaccine available to individuals 6 months and up. Minors will need a parent/guardian present.

PARALUMAN FIL-AM FESTIVAL



LIVE MUSIC . FOOD . ART

Presented by
FCSV

SAVE THE DATE

OCT 15
SUNDAY
1PM - 6PM

FILIPINO HALL

250 CALLE CEBU, SALINAS, CA



FOLLOW US FOR UPDATES
[@PARALUMAN_SALINAS](#)

Happy Hour at Otter Express

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2023

5:30 PM - 6:30 PM

CSUMB OTTER EXPRESS,
BUILDING 14



SCAN FOR DIRECTIONS





Sugar Skull

Making

Join us for *a way to remember*

on October 20 from 10am- 2pm

at VPA BLDG 72



OC3



OUT IN STEM

QUEER HISTORY NIGHT

Timeline and Kahoot!

October 20th, 2023

6-8 PM

Library Room 1128

FOR ACCOMMODATIONS

contact ostem@csumb.edu

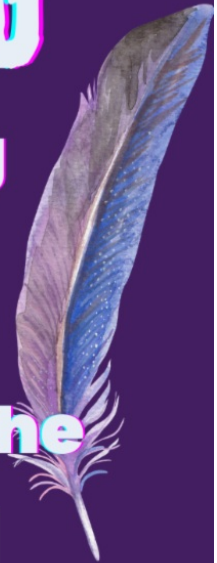




MASK MAKING



**Come join us creating
your mask for the
Masqueerade!**



Oct 23, from 3-5pm at the



OC3

OC3





Papel Picado

For



Join us on October 24 at
OSU 308 from 12 to 1:30pm

OC3



Performing Visual Arts

CINEMATIC ARTS & TECHNOLOGY
WITH
FRAMELINE FANUS
presents



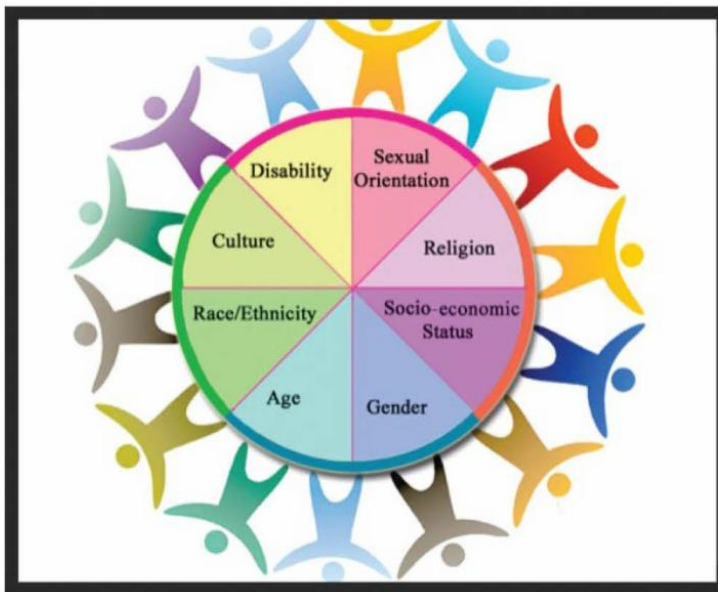
Sponsored
by
**CART CLUB
+
CSUMB**

**SHE IS
CONAN**

**MORE
INFO!**
2 disability
accommodations

QUEER HORROR FILM FESTIVAL
OCT 24th 7:30-9:30PM @
CSUMB WORLD THEATER
COSTUME CONTEST @ 6:30!





Fri Oct 27, 8:30 to 4:30pm

Alumni & Visitors Center

Includes a Free Lunch!

Scan QR Code to Register



WELCOMING
DIVERSITY, EQUITY & INCLUSION
WORKSHOP

For Disability Accommodations, Contact Steven Goings at
sgoings@csumb.edu

LEARN
NCBI Principles
for Prejudice
Reduction

CELEBRATE
Cultural Diversity
in the CSUMB
community

UNDERSTAND
The impact of
stereotypes &
misinformation

SPEAK OUT
Against the ways
your group is
marginalized

CLAIM PRIDE
IN WHO YOU ARE!



WATSONVILLE FILM FESTIVAL
PRESENTS

6TH ANNUAL

DIA DE MUERTOS

FRI. OCT 27
4 - 9 PM

WATSONVILLE
PLAZA

OFRENDAS,
LIVE PERFORMANCES,
FAMILY ACTIVITIES,
MERCADO DE MUERTOS
AND MOVIE **COCO!**



SANTA CRUZ
EDUCATION

COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
SANTA CRUZ COUNTY



ARTS
COUNCIL
SANTA
CRUZ
COUNTY



the David &
Lucile Packard
FOUNDATION

MERCADO DE MUERTOS ROMO PARK
3 - 7 PM



YOU ARE INVITED TO A

HALLOWEEN DRAG SHOW WITH PAJARO VALLEY PRIDE!

START YOUR NIGHT WITH A FRIGHT!

XINISTRA GL'AMOUR * LA ANGEL BABY GL'AMOUR
MINX THRASHER * VAL SELINE * GALLO GALLINA * DJ ATMOS

COSTUME CONTEST FOR HUMANS & PETS!

OCTOBER 28TH

4PM

FRUITION BREWING

918 E. LAKE AVE. WATSONVILLE, CA

\$10-\$20

SUGGESTED DONATION



FRUITION
BREWING



*You are invited
to the*
Masqueerade

*Let your inner identity shine! Take your mask
off and shine bright this October 31st at
Masqueerade !*

7-10pm OSU Ballroom



OC3





The Personal Growth and Counseling Center offers mental health counseling | Photo by Brent Dundore-Arias

Personal Growth and Counseling Center works to improve students' mental health

By Walter Ryce

October is World Mental Health Month while World Mental Health Day is Oct. 10. The Personal Growth and Counseling Center would like to remind students, this fall semester, of strategies and supports available to help deal with mental and emotional struggles.

Jessica Lopez, LMFT, is the clinical and outreach lead for PGCC. She said they first try to address stigmas that might prevent students from reaching out for help before issues turn into a crisis. That includes feeling embarrassed, minimizing the issues, trying to go it alone, or not giving it proper time and attention.

"We want students to know that it's common to feel anxious about coming to the center – mostly because it may be the first time they have tried therapy and we are likely to be anxious when we try something new," Lopez said. "Sometimes the guidance and tools gained in therapy can support students to navigate challenges with a little more ease and they can resume enjoying their college experience."

For students who don't have a lot of time or are hesitant to speak in person, the PGCC encourages them to try the Let's Talk services or the

anonymous online wellness tool You@CSUMB.

Wellness-focused initiatives for students include:

You@CSUMB

Find tips and tools for everything from your mental and physical health, to friendships and finding balance. You@CSUMB is an anonymous, online well-being platform personalized just for you, that can help with:

- Tips to adjust to a new campus
- Coping with stress and anxiety
- Improving social connections
- Academic success tools

Holistic Approach to Wellness

This campus guide highlights seven steps and resources to improve students' mental health and well-being, with specific ideas and suggestions for getting there. Students can choose the path that works for them.

Counseling Support at the Personal Growth and Counseling Center

The counselors at the PGCC are committed to the development of the whole person: academically, personally, socially, spiritually and physically. Support services include:

- Learn decision-making, problem-solving, and communication
- Deal with problems stemming from personal life experiences, trauma, and situational stress
- Resolve life crises that threaten staying in college
- Adjust to and cope with college life and pressures
- Enhance individual potential
- Develop healthy relationships

To use the services, students should complete the **service interest form**. The office is open Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Walk-ins are available for student's first appointment Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday from 1 - 4 p.m.

Group Counseling:

- Anxiety and Depression Support Group, 1:30 - 2:45 p.m. Thursdays
- Ecotherapy Group, 3:30 - 5 p.m. Mondays
- LGBTQ + Support Group, 3:30 - 5 p.m. Wednesdays
- Re-imagining Relationships, 4 - 5 p.m. Thursdays
- Women's Group, noon - 1 p.m. Tuesdays

Mental Health First Aid and Suicide Prevention Training

CSUMB Health and Wellness Services team has certified trainers who offer training to students, faculty and staff using evidence-based suicide prevention programs. Complete one (or all) of the trainings to become a member of Otter Care. Help a fellow student or colleague with their mental well-being and encourage them to seek additional support if needed. **Offered monthly, register here.**

Health and Wellness Services and Campus Planning are collaborating to create a natural space on campus that will support the university community's wellbeing. [Learn more and provide feedback here](#) through Friday, Oct. 13, 2023.

History of... LGBTQ+ History Month



(From the National Today [website](#))

LGBTQ+ History Month is a month-long celebration of the history of the diverse and beautiful lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer community and the importance of civil rights movements in progressing gay rights. The observance was created by Rodney Wilson, a history teacher at a Missouri high school, in 1994. The following year, LGBTQ+ History Month was added to the list of commemorative months in a resolution forwarded by the General Assembly of the National Education Association. October was chosen as the month of observance as National Coming Out Day already existed as a holiday on October 11. Also, the anniversary of the first march for gay rights in Washington took place on October 14, 1979.

LGBTQ+ History Month now also includes Ally Week — during which students are encouraged to be allies with LGBTQ members and stand up against bullying, Spirit Day on October 20 — on which the color purple is worn in solidarity with LGBTQ youth, and the death anniversary of Matthew Shepard — a 21-year-old who was murdered in a hate crime on October 12, 1998.

LGBTQ+ History Month allows the opportunity to extensively learn about the history of the LGBTQ+ movement, and what factors and measures will be successful in building communities and providing role models who will best represent and address the issues of the LGBTQ+ community. The month-long commemoration is most prominently celebrated in the United States, the United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, Hungary, Brazil, and the city of Berlin. The particular month of celebration varies across

different countries — in the United States, Canada, and Australia, LGBTQ+ History Month is celebrated in October; in the United Kingdom and Hungary, it is celebrated in February; and in Berlin, the holiday is celebrated in June and is known as Queer History Month.

HISTORY OF... National Disability Employment Awareness Month



(From the National Today [website](#))

National Disability Employment Awareness Month was created to educate the general public on the issues that workers with disabilities face and how employers can be more inclusive in their hiring practices.

This celebration's history started decades ago in 1945 when Congress enacted Public Law 176, which birthed what we know today as the National Disability Employment Awareness Month (N.D.E.A.M). It was only for a week then and called National Employ the Physically Handicapped Week.

In 1962, the word 'physically' was removed to make the celebration inclusive of individuals with disabilities that were not physical. 26-years later, the celebrations were extended to a whole month by Congress and renamed National Disability Employment Awareness Month in 1988.

Another major step in the evolution of N.D.E.A.M came some years later in 2001 when the Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP) was formed as an offshoot of the U.S. Department of Labor. ODEP took over the management of the N.D.E.A.M and was responsible for choosing the theme for each year, which usually happens at the beginning of the year to give companies and individuals more time for preparation.

This year marks 78 years since the National Disability Employment Awareness Month was first celebrated. Organizations, companies, and individuals are encouraged to participate in spreading the word, especially at the grassroots level, where any form of outreach can be most effective. After all, it is for a whole month, lots of time to get things done!

HISTORY OF... Filipino American History MONTH

(From the National
Today [website](#))



Filipino American History Month or FAHM, is celebrated annually in October, commemorating the arrival of the first Filipinos in modern-day Morro Bay, California in the United States on October 18, 1587.

Filipino-Americans were known as Luzones Indios back then, and they were primarily the Filipino sailors who were enrolled into the Spanish navy as native laborers during the Manila-Acapulco galleon trade. From the Spanish galleon Nuestra Senora de Esperanza, they arrived at the shores of present-day Morro Bay, California.

Following years of campaigning and advocacy by both the civil society and organizations, the Filipino American National Historical Society established Filipino American History Month in 1992. In 2009, Congress recognized the month of October officially as Filipino American History Month in the U.S.

HISTORY OF... German American HERITAGE MONTH



(From the National Today [website](#))

In October 1683 German families began settling in Pennsylvania. Since then, German Americans have contributed greatly to our society. As well as the already mentioned Easter Bunny and Santa, the Germans have had a huge influence in car manufacturing, the building of churches, the arts, and

even the language. Love a good hamburger? That came from Hamburg in Germany. Hugely historical entrepreneurs such as Heinz, Chrysler, Boeing, and Rockefeller all have German American heritage.

The first proclamation of German-American Heritage Month was issued by Ronald Reagan in October 1987, and since then we have been celebrating every year.

HISTORY OF... Italian American HERITAGE MONTH

(From the National
Today [website](#))



Italian American Heritage Month

This October, mark Italian-American Heritage Month by recognizing the contributions and achievements of Italian-Americans. Over 26 million Americans of Italian descent currently reside in the U.S. — making up America's seventh largest ethnic group. The heritage month is in October to coincide with [Columbus Day](#) — the national holiday celebrated on the second Monday of the month. Italian-American Heritage Month celebrates the distinguished cultural contributions of Americans with Italian lineage.

HISTORY OF... Polish American HERITAGE MONTH

(From the National
Today [website](#))

We celebrate
Polish American

Heritage Month in October, but it wasn't always that way. Congress first deemed August as Polish American Heritage Month in 1981.

Later, it moved to October to commemorate the first Polish settlers — as well as the deaths of General Kazimierz Pułaski and Tadeusz Kościuszko

(military leaders

who fought in the American Revolution). The switch also enabled schools to participate in celebrations. Whether you're Polish American or not, it's important to mark the culture of a people who helped shape this country.

October is
POLISH-AMERICAN
Heritage Month



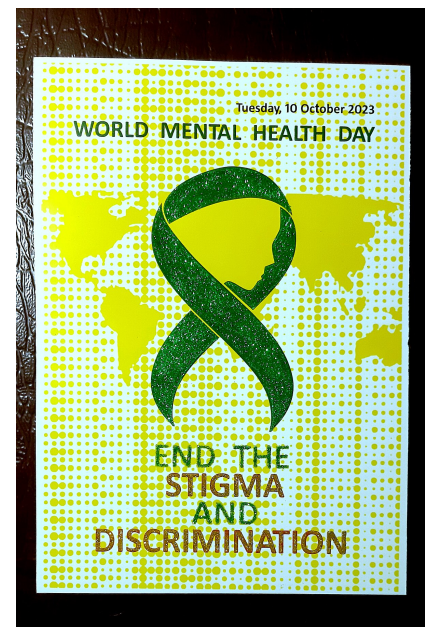
#BePolishBeProud

History of... World Mental Health Day

(From the National Today [website](#))

In 1992, the World Federation of Mental Health led by the deputy secretary-general at the time, Richard Hunter, created World Mental Health Day. They didn't have a precise objective other than to advocate for mental health as a whole. To say the least, it was an uphill climb to change a plethora of bad and dangerous habits that were making a difficult situation worse for people. The world had a host of mental health issues that weren't properly being treated. There were struggles to gain public funding for treatment in France, inhumane treatment in New Zealand, and an overall ignorance in regards to what mental health actually is. The WFMH knew that they needed to act on a global scale to solve a global crisis.

For the first three years, there was a two-hour telecast broadcast across the globe through the U.S. information agency satellite. The studio was located in Tallahassee, Florida and it became a useful way to get their message of advocacy out to the world. They had participation from Chile, England, Australia, and Zambia, while Geneva, Atlanta, and Mexico City pre-taped segments for the broadcast.



The first World Mental Health Day theme was 'Improving the Quality of Mental Health Services throughout the World' in 1994. 27 countries sent feedback reports after the campaign and there were national campaigns in Australia and England. Continuing this momentum, WFMH board members across the globe arranged events in accordance with the day and its growing popularity among government departments, organizations, and civilians alike.

Starting in 1995 and continuing on, the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) arranged the translation of the planning kit material into Spanish, French, Russian, Hindi, Japanese, Chinese, and Arabic. As the years passed, more countries got involved and, consequently, so did civilians as the perception of mental health became more synonymous with human rights.

The themes for World Mental Health Day expanded along with the times. Women, children, health, work, trauma, suicide, and so much more became a part of the conversation, and today, the average citizen is more knowledgeable in regards to mental health.

WOMEN'S

SUPPORT GROUP

Thursdays 1:30-2:45 pm



Personal Growth & Counseling Center

MENTAL HEALTH MATTERS



**Tuesdays 12-1 p.m. *Starting
September 19***

A weekly group offering a safe and confidential space where women can explore issues such as stress management, anxiety, depression, relationships, body image and other topics of your choice.

**History of...
Columbus
Day**

(From the National
Today [website](#))

Though Columbus discovered the Americas in 1492, the earliest documentation of any unofficial celebration of Columbus Day wasn't until 1792. By the 400th anniversary, following a lynching in New Orleans where a mob had murdered 11 Italian immigrants, President Benjamin Harrison

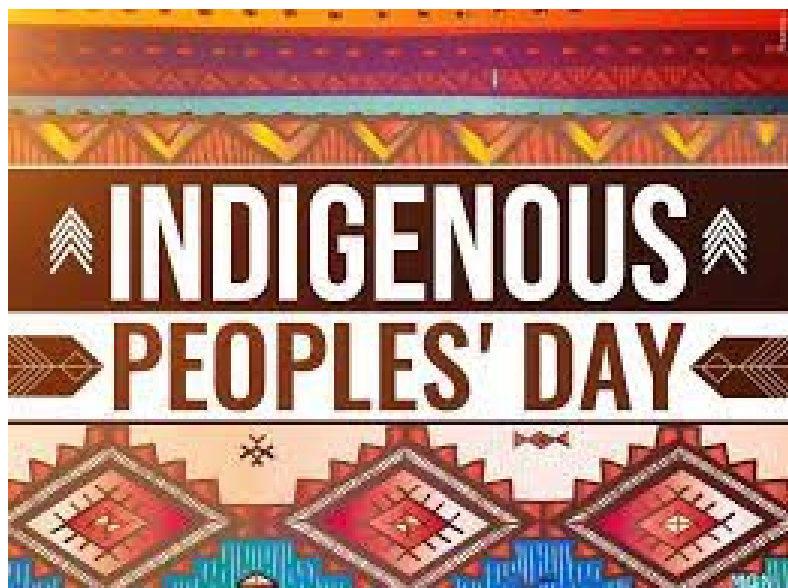
declared Columbus Day as a one-time national celebration. This was part of a larger effort after the lynching incident to placate Italian Americans and ease diplomatic tensions with Italy. During this celebration, politicians, poets, teachers, and preachers began to spin the web of patriotism under the veil of Columbus. These rituals took themes such as citizenship boundaries and the importance of loyalty to the nation. Many Italian-Americans took this as an opportunity to celebrate their heritage. It wasn't until 1966, when Mariano A. Lucca, from Buffalo, NY, founded the National Columbus Day Committee, which lobbied to make Columbus Day a federal holiday. These efforts were successful and Columbus Day became a federal holiday in 1968.

Over the years, the celebration of Christopher Columbus Day has become more and more controversial due to the atrocities he committed against Native Americans. To many, Christopher Columbus is not a celebrated hero, but a violent tyrant who wasn't very good at navigating, considering he thought he'd landed in India when reaching the Americas. He also was responsible for the enslavement, mutilation, and mass genocide of thousands of Native Americans and indigenous people.

Because of this fact, the celebration of Columbus Day has become less and less of a day of pride and more of a painful reminder to a dark past in American history. Since the early 70s, many states have petitioned to have the name changed to National Indigenous People's Day to honor Native Americans and commemorate their stories and culture. Recently, it has taken effect as an official state holiday in various places.



**Goodbye,
Columbus?
Here's what
Indigenous
Peoples'**



Day means to Native Americans

(From the National Public Radio [website](#))

For the third year running, a U.S. president has officially recognized Indigenous Peoples' Day.

President Biden **issued a proclamation** on Friday to observe Monday, Oct. 9, as a day to honor Native Americans, their "resilience, strength, and perseverance" and "determination to preserve cultures, identities, and ways of life," even as they have faced "violence and devastation," he said.

Indigenous Peoples' Day advocates say the recognition helps correct a "whitewashed" American history that has glorified Europeans like Italian explorer Christopher Columbus who have committed violence against Indigenous communities. Native Americans have long criticized the inaccuracies and harmful narratives of Columbus' legacy that credited him with his "discovery" of the Americas when Indigenous people were there first.

"It is difficult to grapple with the complete accomplishments of individuals and also the costs of what those accomplishments came at," said Mandy Van Heuvelen, the cultural interpreter coordinator at the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian.

There are no set rules on how one should appreciate the day, said Van Heuvelen, a member of the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe from South Dakota. It's all about reflection, recognition, celebration and an education. "It can be a day of reflection of our history in the United States, the role Native people have played in it, the impacts that history has had on native people and communities, and also a day to gain some understanding of the diversity of Indigenous peoples," she said.

The idea was first proposed by Indigenous peoples at a United Nations conference in 1977 held to address discrimination against Natives, as **NPR has reported**. But South Dakota became the first state to replace Columbus Day with Indigenous Peoples day in 1989, officially celebrating it the following year.

Biden's proclamation signifies a formal adoption of a day that a growing number of states and cities have come to acknowledge. **According to the Pew Research Center**, 17 states and the District of Columbia now have holidays honoring Native Americans. More than 100 cities celebrate Indigenous Peoples' Day, with many of them having altogether dropped the holiday honoring Columbus to replace it with Indigenous Peoples' Day. Native Americans have borne the brunt of the work to make that happen. What might seem to some like a simple name change can lead to real social progress for Indigenous Americans, said Van Heuvelen.

"What these changes accomplish, piece by piece, is visibility for Native people in the United States," she said. "Until Native people are or are fully seen in our society and in everyday life, we can't accomplish those bigger changes. As long as Native people remain invisible, it's much more easier for people to look past those real issues and those real concerns within those communities."

What about Columbus Day?

Columbus Day **remains a federal holiday** that gives federal government employees the day off from work.

The day was first founded as a way to appreciate the mistreatment of Italian Americans, and Congress eventually ***made it a federal holiday*** in 1934.

"Italian American culture is important, and I think there are other times and places to recognize that. But I think it's also important to also recognize the history of Columbus Day itself," said Baca. "Should we recognize a man whose labors killed children, killed women and decimated the Native American population here? I don't think that is something that we want to be honored."

Oregon marked its first statewide recognition of Indigenous Peoples' Day, in place of Columbus Day, in 2021 after its legislature passed a bill brought by its Indigenous lawmakers. Rep. Tawna Sanchez, one of those lawmakers, said the movement to recognize the day is an ideal time to capitalize on the momentum of political recognition.

"I don't know that we'll ever get to a place where people have their land back or have the recognition of who they are, to the degree that we that we need to or should. But the fact that people are paying attention at this very moment — that's important, because we will have a greater opportunity to educate people and help them understand why we are where we are right now," she told NPR in 2021.

"History is always written by the conqueror," said Sanchez. "How do we actually tell the truth about what happened and where we sit this very moment? How do we go forward from here?"

History of... National Coming Out Day



(From the National Today [website](#))

National Coming Out Day was inspired by a single march. 500,000 people participated in the March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights on October 11, 1987, generating momentum to last for 4 months after the march had ended. During this period, over a hundred LGBTQ+ identifying individuals gathered outside Washington, DC, and decided on creating a national day to celebrate coming out – this began on the 1st anniversary of their historic march.

It was Rob Eichberg and Jean O’Leary who first proposed the idea of NCOD. Eichberg founded a person growth workshop, The Experience, and at the time, O’Leary was the head of National Gay Rights Advocates. Eichberg, who would later die in 1995 of complications from AIDS, had said the strongest tool in the human rights movement was to illustrate that most people already know and respect someone in the LGBTQ+ community, and NCOD helps these people come to light.

Over the last 15 years, the Human Rights Campaign has chosen a theme for every National Coming Out Day — 2014 and 2013 were both themed “Coming Out Still Matters,” and the earliest theme (1999) was “Come Out To Congress.” There have also been different spokespeople for each NCOD. Some notable names include “Frasier” actor Dan Butler and Candance Gingrich, half-sister of Newt Gingrich, in the 1990s.

NCOD gains popularity and participants every year. Since its inception, countless public figures and celebrities have openly identified themselves as LGBTQ+, and yearly share messages of support and hope for those still in the closet. The event plans to continue its efforts to eradicate hate and homophobia with friends and family coming out to dispel stereotypes.

History of... Halloween

(From the National Today [website](#))

The word, Halloween or Hallowe’en dates from before the 16th century and draws from its early Christian past. In old Scottish, Hallowe’en translates as “All Hallows’ (holy) Even” referring to “All Hallows’ Evening,” the day before All Hallows Day, a solemn occasion in which all of the Catholic Church’s heavenly saints were



honored. By the 18th century, Halloween shows up with the spelling we know today.

HALLOWEEN HISTORY

Going back in time, Halloween is fascinating because it has lots of practices that date back to its pagan origins. For example, the Halloween tradition of bobbing for apples reminds us of the Roman invasion of England. As part of Roman paganism, they brought an apple tree, symbolic of Pomona, Goddess of Plenty. During an annual festival, young marriage-minded people bit into apples floating in the water. According to beliefs, whoever bit the apple was next to marry.

But it's really the Celts we have to thank for Halloween. They were ancient people who lived in the areas of modern-day Ireland, northern France, and in the UK.

Halloween's pagan roots go back thousands of years to the Celtic Fire Festival of Samhain, which recognized the end of the harvest season and the start of their new year on November 1.

During this festival, pagans wore costumes and lit fires to keep the bad spirits away – keep that in mind when you're donning your Dracula fangs! With the dark nights of winter representing death, the Celts believed that on October 31, the dead returned to walk among the living. Sounds kind of zombie-ish, right?

The Christian Influence

As Christian influence on society began to grow around the 8th century, new customs and traditions were brought in and merged with those of the Celts.

Christians would celebrate All Souls Day on November 2, which was a day to honor the dead in much the same way that the Celts did on Samhain. It was around this time that the evening before the celebration became known as All Hallows Eve.

After All Hallows Day was officially switched to November 1 in 835, October 31 became known as All Hallows Eve and the holiday we know and love today was starting to take shape. By the 12th century, these days had gained holy importance throughout Europe, and customs such as ringing the church bells for the souls of those in purgatory had become widespread.

A typical Halloween would see a mournful crier parading through the streets, dressed all in black, ringing bells, and encouraging the locals to pray for the souls of the dead. It was around this time that "souling" began to happen, but there's more about that further down in the trick-or-treat section. By the Middle Ages churches were too poor to display the relics of martyred saints and so churchgoers began dressing up as them every year instead. This could partly explain where the tradition of dressing up on Halloween stems from.

Halloween in America

Halloween became popular in America in the 19th century, with enthusiasm for the holiday being brought across with the Irish and Scottish immigrants who were arriving at the time. The biggest change from Halloween's earliest roots is that it becomes more secular than religious. By the 1920s and 30s, Halloween parades and parties became a major part of the festivities and the holiday was celebrated from coast to coast, regardless of race or religious background.

Trick-or-Treating

Trick-or-treating is said to stem from the practice of “souling”, which is a Medieval practice where churchgoers would go between different parishes and ask the rich for pastries which were known as soul cakes. In return, they would pray for the souls of them and their friends. While “souling”, people would carry with them lanterns made of hollowed-out turnips. That turnip is now of course a pumpkin and it is believed that that the jack-o-lantern originally represented the souls of the dead.

By the late 19th century children in Scotland and Ireland were dressing up in costume and going from door to door accepting gifts from neighbors, this practice was known as “guising”. The children would generally be given bits of food for their efforts. The first recorded instance of this in America is in 1911. The term trick-or-treat was first used in Alberta, Canada, in 1927, and by the 1930s it was starting to become a popular activity.

Modern Day Halloween

By the 1950s Halloween became a holiday that was primarily for the children. Trick-or-treating was commonplace as kids went around their neighborhoods in costume collecting candy. Halloween became increasingly embedded in popular culture and horror movies would often be released to coincide with the holiday. Movies such as “Nightmare on Elm Street,” “Halloween,” and “Friday the 13th” have all become classics associated with the holiday.

Halloween is now America’s second-largest commercial holiday, with \$6 billion being spent on it each year. Numerous traditions such as trick-or-treating, costume parties, and watching horror movies all contribute towards a huge occasion that is celebrated throughout the country.

Halloween plays off our phobias. Killer clowns and antique dolls creep you out? Bats and spiders make your skin crawl? Does the sight of blood make you faint? Don’t go into that room and don’t go out on Halloween. But if you do — look over your shoulder! On Halloween, be a kid again or take on a new persona. Watch out for ghosts and goblins and things that go, “bump” in the night. Eat as much candy as your tummy can hold. Enjoy feeling totally scared for just. one. night. Happy Halloween, everybody!

In the



Spotlight: Otter Pride Club

GENERAL

Group type: Inter-Club Council

Category: Affinity / Identity

MISSION

Otter Pride strives to secure the presence of the Queer/LGBTQIA+ community on the CSUMB campus, create an LGBTQIA+ friendly atmosphere on campus, provide a visible community and safe space for students to join, and continue educating the campus about the LGBTQIA+ community.

MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

- A safe space for all people in the Queer/LGBTQ+ community.
- A place to meet and greet others in the community.
- Immediate access to the club's Discord Server, Minecraft Realm, etc.
- Priority access to free club events such as Otter Pride Movie Nights, Otter Pride "Picnic in the Park," Otter Pride's Sand Castle Building Contest, Pride and Seek, Capture the Pride Flag, etc.
- Priority access to tickets for funded club events such as Queeraoke, Bonfire Social, Night of Noise, etc.
- Education/news meetings to get up-to-date on all things LGBTQIA+.
- A space to advocate and be advocated for.
- Fun games, stickers, and fidget toys at all meetings
- Occasional food provided at in-person meetings for those who

would've skipped dinner otherwise :)

GOALS

- Share news, scholarships, and local events with students
 - A community to chat with among peers.
 - Provide a safe space for queer individuals to come out of their shell so they can develop into an individual that they want to be.
 - Continue advocacy for inclusive rights and access for queer/trans undergraduate students, graduate students, faculty, and staff (ex: all-gender restrooms, housing programs, etc.).
 - Regular funding events for charity and the club's many events.
-

GENERAL

Group type: Inter-Club

Council

Category: Affinity / Identity
Organizations

MISSION

SADE provides educational programs to advance recognition of the value, skills, and rights of people with disabilities.

Encourages networking opportunities and promotes support groups for people with disabilities. SADE will collaborate and inform the CSUMB community of current trends, issues and developments related to disability rights and awareness through events, presentations and programs.

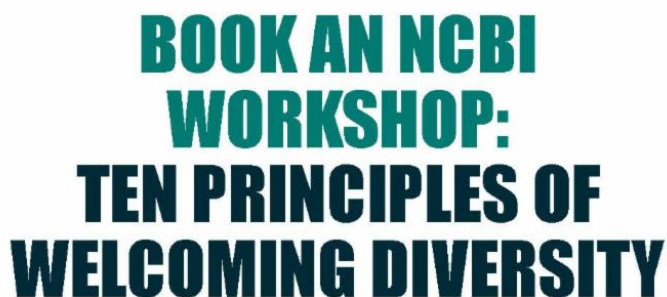


MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

Members will be eligible to participate in educational conversations about the disabled community, and receive information about resources on and off the CSUMB campus. Members will be able to engage with each other to create an inclusive disability community in the club and on campus.

GOALS

SADE's goal is to create an inclusive community of students regardless of disabilities or abilities in the club and around campus overall.



A PGCC / NCBI Classroom Presentation

For disability accommodations, contact Steven Goings at sgoings@csumb.edu

@ CSU Monterey Bay

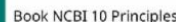


Everyone – and every group – Counts!

Take Risks! Make & Clean-up Mistakes

Confront misinformation about other groups

Listen for the Hurt underneath oppressive comments





BOOK AN OPPRESSION DECOMPRESSION HOUR SELF-CARE FOR ACTIVISTS!

Whether is worrying about loved-ones affected by the Russian war and invasion of Ukraine, outrage over Florida's "Don't Say Gay" bill, the vitriolic state of U.S. politics or just surviving racism, sexism and homo/transphobia day-to-day, we all need a place where we can vent about and heal from the stress and injustices of the world. If your student club is needing a place to be heard and supported without judgment, book an oppression decompression hour, self-care for activists' workshop. (image above by Max van den Oetelaar)

For Accommodations, contact sgoings@csumb.edu

National Coalition
NCBI
Building Institute
@ CSU Monterey Bay

**Take Care of Your
BODY!!**

Honor Your FEELINGS

**Set Activist
BOUNDARIES**

**Practice Self and
Group Care**

**Celebrate
SUCCESSES!**



**The Otter
Cross
Cultural
Center
Newsletter**



OTTER CROSS CULTURAL CENTER

OTTER STUDENT UNION @ CSU MONTEREY BAY

asks

"What's the Chisme?"

[Click Here](#) to subscribe to What's the Chisme?

About the Otter Cross Cultural Center's (OC3) newsletters better known as ***What's the Chisme!***

We wanted to give you a brief history of why we value chisme and why chisme saves lives.

In Spanish chisme has a negative connotation that translates to gossip. Here at the OC3, we are proud of being chismosxs. Chisme embodies our communities' resistance. Chisme has been central to our communities' survival. This informal way of communication has connected our families and communities to services, resources, and safety. It has also served as a form of sharing knowledge. Here at the OC3 we want to keep this rich history going!

What's the chisme helps identify CSUMB resources centered on social justice and inclusion. Services that center our identities and employ pathways to transform our campus and home communities. What's the chisme will also keep you up to date with all the events on-campus and will keep you connected to the larger Otter community.



From the **Fall 2023 TLA/CAT Newsletter:**

[Click Here](#) for Newsletter Archive

To subscribe to CAT/TLA Newsletter email Rebecca Kersnar at rkersnar@csumb.edu

Welcoming Our University Ombudsperson and Title IX Director/DHR Administrator!

We are so glad to welcome Ombudsperson Johnny Armijo and Title IX Director/DHR Administrator Raquel Bonilla. Both provide services and support in a confidential and impartial manner through fair and objective problem-solving and dispute resolution. For more information, see the [Title IX and DHR page](#) and the [Office of Ombuds page](#).

Honoring and Celebrating Indigenous Peoples' Day Today!

See a related CSUMB story [here](#), a Sand City event [here](#), and a proclamation from the White House [here](#), spotlighting the “diverse cultures and communities today...a testament to the unshakable and unbreakable commitment of many generations to preserve their cultures, identities, and rights to self-governance.”

Continuing to Celebrate National Hispanic/Latinx Heritage Month!

For the final week, sharing the [CSUMB and MPC Hispanic Heritage Library Guide](#) showcasing literature and online resources about the experiences of Hispanic and Latino/a/x groups.

Dia De Los Muertos - Call for Artists!

Application Deadline - October 27

[Apply Here](#)

OC3 is inviting all campus participants to submit artwork for CSUMB's Dia De Los Muertos celebration. Dia de los Muertos (Day of the Dead) is a ceremony rooted in indigenous traditions throughout the Central and South Americas to honor and pay homage to loved ones who have passed away. October is LGBTQ+ History Month!

In celebration, watch for the lineup of icons on this year's [LGBT History Month page](#).

Also spotlighting **[National Coming Out Day](#)** on October 11th. To support students and employees who identify as LGBTQ+, consider the **[OC3's Resources Guide](#)**.



BOOK AN OPPRESSION DECOMPRESSION HOUR SELF-CARE FOR ACTIVISTS!

Whether is worrying about loved-ones affected by the Russian war and invasion of Ukraine, outrage over Florida's "Don't Say Gay" bill, the vitriolic state of U.S. politics or just surviving racism, sexism and homo/transphobia day-to-day, we all need a place where we can vent about and heal from the stress and injustices of the world. If your student club is needing a place to be heard and supported without judgment, book an oppression decompression hour, self-care for activists' workshop. (image above by Max van den Oetelaar)

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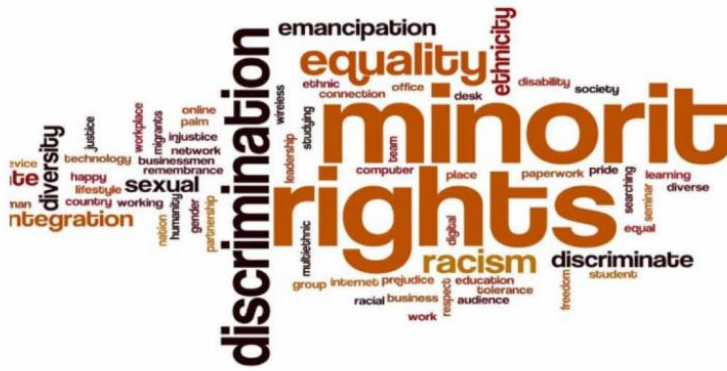
Honor Your FEELINGS

**Set Activist
BOUNDARIES**

**Practice Self and
Group Care**

**Celebrate
SUCCESSES!**





BOOK AN NCBI WORKSHOP: TEN PRINCIPLES OF WELCOMING DIVERSITY

A PGCC / NCBI Classroom Presentation

This 90-minute workshop is designed for a single class session. It introduces students to the National Coalition Building Institute's Ten Principles of Welcoming Diversity through instruction and paired exercises with the help of talking points, paired sharing and questions for consideration by certified NCBI trainers.

For disability accommodations, contact Steven Goings at sgoings@csumb.edu

National Coalition
NCBI
Building Institute
@ CSU Monterey Bay



California State University
MONTEREY BAY
Personal Growth & Counseling Center

**Generosity is the key
to cross-group
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**Everyone – and every
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**Take Risks! Make &
Clean-up Mistakes**

**Confront
misinformation
about other groups**

**Listen for the Hurt
underneath
oppressive
comments**



**Steven Goings,
NAACP Membership
Chair, asks you to
please join the
Monterey County
Branch**



at <https://montereynaacp.org/membership/>

Why Join?

The famous case that ended legal segregation in this country – Brown vs. Board of Education – was brought, argued and won by NAACP lawyers. Rosa Parks’ famous act of civil disobedience was not a chance occurrence as many erroneously believe. It was a coordinated action she undertook as secretary of the Montgomery NAACP.

It was the NAACP that first sounded the national alarm regarding voter suppression that began in earnest in 2010 as a backlash to the election of Barack Obama as our first Black president in 2008. Our record-breaking voter registration efforts in 2012 overcame those suppression tactics and ensured a second term for the incumbent president.

Fast-forward to 2023 and we are now experiencing a great rise in identity-based hate crimes and anti-LGBTQ+ legislation along with a resurgence of anti-democratic white supremacy, the greatest roll-back of civil rights and the most coordinated attack on voting rights since the 1960s.

The NAACP is leading the fight against all of these trends and your membership funds these efforts.

Deeper Involvement

Simply purchasing a membership is very helpful to the organization. But the work of the NAACP is done in committee and to be frank there is more work than workers! So if it works in your life to roll-up your sleeves and dive in, here are some of the standing committees that can always use support (you can find committee descriptions on our website at: <https://montereynaacp.org/committees/>)

**Professor
Lopez-
Littleton
honored by
Monterey
County
NAACP**



CSU Monterey Bay Professor Vanessa Lopez-Littleton, who is also dean of the College of Health Sciences and Human Services, was honored Saturday evening, Sept. 30, at the Monterey County NAACP's 51st Annual Freedom Fund Life Membership Banquet. Lopez-Littleton was presented with the President's Award.

Speaking to a crowd of about 200 people that included CSUMB's President Vanya Quiñones and Monterey Mayor Tyller Williams, a CSUMB alumnus, Lopez-Littleton made a point of recognizing other members of the historic organization.

"I am honored to receive this award, but in doing so, I recognize that this award is not just about me as an individual," Lopez-Littleton said. "I'm accepting this award on behalf of those who have been in the struggle to make the Monterey Peninsula a fair and just place for all."

She urged the audience to exercise their right to vote and to be continually engaged in the community, protecting democracy and building on the work of past leaders.

CSUMB Special Consultant Sue Parris was honored with the Medgar Evers Civil Rights Legacy Award, and CSUMB's Service Learning and Social Work Department Community Partner was recognized with the Spirit of Partnership Award.

According to the program, the President's Award "recognizes individuals who have given lifelong commitment to the furtherance of civil rights locally and nationally to make society better for all citizens and especially the most vulnerable."

"I'm grateful to be a part of the Monterey Peninsula community and the incredible group of community leaders who have shared their wisdom, hope and desire for a brighter future with me and so many of my peers," she said. "I remain committed to fighting to ensure Black people have the same rights, access, and opportunities as every other American."

Multicultural Equity Group | 1512 Vallejo Street, Seaside, CA 93955

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