

R&DE LATINX ¡CELEBRACIÓN!

October 12th, 2021

Dear R&DE –

I am writing to announce a series of exciting R&DE educational events in support of National Hispanic Heritage Month (NHHM) and to celebrate the rich heritage of our Latinx staff!

As we continue to advance our **R&DE's Core Values**, in particular **Value & Embrace Diversity, Equity & Inclusion**, I would like to take this time to recognize our Latinx staff whose sphere of influence is present each day in R&DE. It is my continued vision to ensure all individuals and groups feel valued, respected, and included. The main event of our NHHM series will be a **Virtual R&DE Latinx ¡Celebración!**, which will be held via Zoom on **Tuesday, October 12 from 2:00 – 3:30 pm**, and will cover a wide variety of topics including the triumphs and challenges experienced by Hispanic and Latinx Americans as well as the lived experiences and success stories of R&DE staff.

National Hispanic Heritage Month is a celebration of the achievements of Hispanic and Latinx Americans, which begins September 15th and lasts through October 15th. This period highlights the contributions of individuals from over 20 different Spanish-speaking countries and territories as well as their influence on American culture and history. Though October 15th marks the official end for this monthslong celebration, R&DE will continue to celebrate National Hispanic Heritage Month throughout the month of October in order to provide as many educational opportunities as possible.

Our **Virtual R&DE Latinx ¡Celebración!** will feature a presentation from **Elvira Prieto**, *Dean for Community Engagement and Diversity, Director for El Centro Chicano y Latino*, and Resident Fellow for Casa Zapata. In addition to her aforementioned roles, Elvira is both an author and poet and was named the 2018 Fidler Award winner. In addition to Elvira's presentation, we will feature a two-part panel discussion with R&DE staff followed by an educational trivia session to test your knowledge of Hispanic and Latinx American culture and R&DE's commitment to excellence in DEI.

Please join me in celebrating the achievements of individuals from Latinx communities. I strongly encourage those who can attend this virtual event to do so where possible. For those scheduled to work during the time of our planned events, please work with your direct manager to seek approval for attendance. Viewing rooms will be available at GCC Havana Room, EVGR B - Room 144, Wilbur Dining, Stern Dining, SRWC and Stanford Guest House.

In Stanford Dining, we will serve country-specific Latin American dishes and flavors as well as introduce a virtual Teaching Kitchen session to educate staff on traditional Hispanic and Latin American cuisines through an instructional video available via Zoom. Additionally, Stanford Flavor will feature cooking recipes and educational information for continued immersion into Latin American culinary history. In Student Housing Operations, we will feature historical and informational slides on our Visix screens so both our students and staff can learn more about the historical contributions of Hispanic and Latinx Americans and the impacts these contributions have had on our shared history.

In addition to the aforementioned events, R&DE has partnered with El Centro Chicano y Latino, Center for Latin American Studies (CLAS), and the Diversity & Access office to help provide additional resources for staff to increase our collective cultural awareness and appreciation.

Last but certainly not least, I would like to extend a hearty welcome back to **Frank Larteri III**, who returns to R&DE as the *Senior Manager for DEI and Special Projects*. Those of you familiar with Frank's previous work with R&DE's Stepping Stones to Success program and the Intercultural Awareness & Valuing Diversity training series will attest to his continued dedication to DEI and advocacy for ensuring a welcoming work environment for all. Frank will be working as an integral part of my R&DE central operations team to ensure departmental alignment with my vision and continued commitment for DEI and will be assisting me with the planning of the cultural celebrations we will have in the coming months. As I have mentioned previously, we enthusiastically look ahead to additional cultural celebrations and welcome recommendations from staff as to how we can best support all groups.

I am proud to lead such a diverse and talented team! Your continued commitment to excellence in DEI is greatly appreciated!

Warm regards,



Shirley J. Everett, Ed.D., MBA

Senior Associate Vice Provost, Residential & Dining Enterprises
and Senior Adviser to the Provost on Equity and Inclusion

