

A special message FROM THE DEAN

Dear Faculty, Staff, Residents and Students,



After the Emancipation Proclamation took effect on January 1, 1863, some Confederate armies continued to fight. Two and a half years later, June 19, 1865 marks the date when Union troops arrived at Galveston Bay, Texas to announce that the more than 250,000 enslaved African people in the state were free by executive order. While the Emancipation Proclamation did not end a legacy of oppression, systemic subordination and inhumane treatment, June 19 or Juneteenth marked a new chapter in this country's struggle towards freedom, justice, and reconciliation. Juneteenth is a time to honor and celebrate the freedom and resilience of people from the African Diaspora.

The Stonewall Riots occurred on June 28, 1969, when New York Police Department officers raided The Stonewall Inn, a popular gay bar in Manhattan's West Greenwich Village. When the raid turned violent, patrons fought back, kickstarting a multi-day uprising in protest of police harassment, social discrimination, being LGBTQI+ as a mental illness, and lack of civil rights. Bisexual activist Brenda Howard coordinated the first "Pride" rally in NYC. These events were first recognized as Pride Day, then Pride Week and now, Pride Month. Pride Month is a time to celebrate being LGBTQI+ and protest the oppression that continues across identities.

These critical times in history remind us, as the Jewish American writer and activist, Emma Lazarus stated, "No one is free until we all are free." Below are resources to learn more about the history of Juneteenth, Pride Month, and America's struggle towards equity and justice.

- [The Historical Legacy of Juneteenth](#) by the Smithsonian's National Museum of African American History and Culture
- [The History Channel - Pride](#)
- [What is Juneteenth? Columbia University Shares Why They Celebrate](#)
- [8 LGBTQ+ Films to Enjoy with Friends During Pride Month](#)
- [Amend: The Fight for America](#) Netflix documentary
- [17 Children's Books with Queer Characters That Deserve Your Attention](#)
- [15 Documentaries to Stream for Juneteenth](#)
- [The top 5 LGBTQ Documentaries to Stream During Pride Month](#)

RowanSOM and Rowan Medicine acknowledge the historic importance of Pride Month and Juneteenth as well as the significance of its recognition. **As an academic medical institution, an important way for us to honor Juneteenth and Pride are to discuss ways to mitigate bias and health disparities in medical education, patient care, and research.** Another important way to celebrate are to support Black owned and LGBTQI+ businesses. Links with examples are below:

- [South Jersey Black owned restaurants and businesses to support year-round](#)
- [14 Philly Black owned businesses to support right now](#)
- [28 LGBTQ-owned brands and businesses to support this year](#)
- [100+ Black owned businesses to support in 2022 and beyond](#)

Please share your photos, social media posts, and stories of how you celebrate for inclusion on the SOM website, SOM Facebook page, and SOM Instagram using the hashtags #SOMJuneteenth #SOMPride #PrideMonth and #Juneteenth. Photos and stories can also be shared with Yvonne Ortiz, Director of DEI at ortizy@rowan.edu.

I appreciate each of you and the work you do everyday for our students, colleagues, and patients.

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