



June 11, 2021

In Celebration of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

Dear Faculty and Staff,

With the spring semester behind us and as we greet the first month of summer break, it is important to recognize that June marks Pride month and celebrates Juneteenth. Please be reminded that the **College closed on Friday, June 18**, in observation of the holiday.

For a robust listing of University-wide events and initiatives in support of LGBTQI+, please visit CUNY's [new hub](#) and [this roundup](#) of initiatives that support LGBTQI+ students. Baruch is proud to be one of three CUNY colleges to partner with the University on the launch of the CUNY LGBTQI+ Summer Internship Program which will provide students with career engagement opportunity at private, cultural, and nonprofit organizations.

Below is a list of landmark milestones and celebrations that make June a standout month for diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI).

- June is [National Caribbean-American Heritage Month](#). To kick off the month, President Joseph R. Biden issued a proclamation recognizing that “Throughout our history, Caribbean Americans have brought vibrant cultures, languages, traditions, and values that strengthen our country and add new chapters to our common story.”
- **Saturday, June 12**, commemorates [Loving Day](#), the date, in 1967, when the U.S. Supreme Court decided the landmark case, *Loving v. Virginia*, which determined that state bans on interracial marriages were unconstitutional.
- **Tuesday, June 15**, is the first anniversary of last year’s [historic expansion](#) of the Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. After hearing a trifecta of cases, the U.S. Supreme Court determined that Title VII prohibits discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and/or transgender status. Prior to the 2020 ruling, only 24 states upheld such inalienable rights for LGBTQI+ people.
- **Saturday, June 19**, celebrates Juneteenth which commemorates the official end of slavery in the United States in 1865. Last year’s mass demonstrations against racial injustice brought new focus and energy to Juneteenth, which is now [recognized](#) by New York State and others as an official holiday for state employees—**which this year will be observed on Friday, June 18, with a day off for faculty and staff** to reflect on the importance of the remembrance—and to recognize the work we have ahead of us to end discrimination and systemic racism in our society.
- **Saturday, June 26**, marks two LGBTQI+ milestones. On this date in 2013, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that legally married same-sex couples are entitled to federal benefits, ruling the Defense of Marriage Act unconstitutional. And in 2015, the court determined that same-sex marriage cannot be banned in the U.S. and that all same-sex marriages must be recognized nationwide, finally granting same-sex couples equal rights to heterosexual couples under the law.
- **Monday, June 28**, is the anniversary of [Stonewall Riots of 1969](#) when police raided the legendary gay club, the Stonewall Inn, igniting six days of six days of riots around Greenwich Village and catalyzing the gay rights movement worldwide.

This month and all throughout the year, Baruch strives to promote a culture of DEI with special events, listening sessions, resource-sharing announcements, and by supporting DEI awareness in our classrooms and offices across the institution.

In the upcoming academic year and beyond, we look forward to Elliott Dawes, JD, LL.M., [joining Baruch College](#) as Executive Chief Diversity Officer on August 2. In this mission-critical role and in partnership with President S. David Wu, he will provide purposeful leadership for all College-wide DEI efforts so we can realize our shared vision through action.

