

Diversity Newsletter

The University of Kansas Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Science
Issue 5: Spring 2021



“Diversity is about embracing differences, and recognizing the amazing things that are possible when it’s woven into an organization’s culture”

In this issue

Intro & Spotlight P.1
Updates and Recap P.2
Agenda P.3
Upcoming Events P.4

Diversity Spotlight

This issue’s diversity spotlight highlights the work of Dr. Micaela Wexler



Dr. Wexler co-chaired the Diversity Committee for 3 years with Dr. Muenks. Dr. Wexler was essential in the creation and implementation of the Diversity Committee. Her commitment to the betterment of our department by pushing Diversity to the forefront will always be remembered and applauded.

Thank you Dr. Wexler!

Department of Psychiatry Diversity Committee

The Diversity Committee, chaired by Dr. Liz Muenks and Dr. Hannah Katz, began convening in May 2017. Since that time the committee has provided a space for discussing issues and concerns related to diversity, reviewing literature, case discussion and finding new ways to push our department to continue making diversity a priority.

It can feel overwhelming to try to be aware of all aspects of Diversity Equity and Inclusiveness (DEI). This newsletter intends to create an accessible, platform to inform the Department of Psychiatry and Behavior Sciences of opportunities, events and other happenings related to DEI, advocacy, activism and community support to get our department more involved in our community. This brief newsletter by no means intends to be comprehensive though we hope to provide resources and starting points for further exploration.

November 2020 Updates

Welcome to New Members, Co-Chair's and Subcommittee Chairs



Welcome to our new Diversity Committee Co-Chair!

Dr. Hannah Katz, Onco-Psychology Faculty

"Being a member of the diversity committee has been an integral part of my KU Medical Center experience," Katz said. "Being raised in a Jewish home instilled in me the value of Tikkun Olam (Hebrew for repairing the world), and that is one of the reasons I chose to become a psychologist. During my two years of training at KU Medical Center, I have strived to grow and develop cultural humility and will continue to make this a goal throughout my career." ([Diversity Award Recipient Quote](#))

"Diversity is a fact, but inclusion is a choice we make everyday. As leaders, we have to put out the message that we embrace, and not just tolerate, diversity"

Nellie Borrero

We now have an Advocacy Subcommittee!

Dr. Bre-Ann Slay, Child Psychology Postdoctoral Fellow

"Diversity and Inclusiveness is integral to mental health. It is core to who we are as people and more so for those of us in the helping professions. I hope to utilize my position to increase awareness and knowledge as well as to give opportunities to get involved and be active no matter how big or small the involvement may be. The work of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusiveness is inherently team oriented; I hope to collaborate with as many people as possible to push the mission forward and I am thankful to be a part of a department sees the importance of this work as well.



Last Time ...

The previous Diversity Committee meeting occurred on 10/21/2020. We discussed:

◇ National Coming Out Day 10/11

◇ Coming Out Day celebrates March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights. The pandemic has changed the ways we celebrate holidays. For some queer youth, celebration was not an option this year as they were forced to be home with, at times, unwelcoming family members. [Read more about Coming Out during a Pandemic here.](#)

◇ Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, & Sukkot

◇ "This year, the Jewish New Year and the 10 days of observance that follow will look quite different because of the coronavirus. Regardless, many say the spirit of the traditions will not be lost." [Read more here.](#)

◇ LatinX

◇ For a 5 minute video taking a deep dive into the term and its alternatives, [click here!](#) This video by no means intends to be the answer to all questions, rather it provides context and areas of further exploration

◇ Voting Holiday

◇ For a comprehensive video addressing voter suppression, holidays, and turnout statistics [Watch this Video.](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

NOV. 2020 NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Tim Cook's Birthday	2 Día de los Muertos	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13 Trans Awareness Week	14 Diwali
15 National Hunger & Homelessness Awareness Week	16 Dutch American Heritage Day	17	18 Roberto Goizueta's Birthday	19	20 Transgender Day of Remembrance	21
22	23	24	25	26 Thanksgiving	27 Native American Heritage Day	28
29	30 Shirley Chisholm's Birthday					

- ◇ **Día de los Muertos 10/31—11/2**
 - ◇ Rooted in two traditions: the Christian observance of All Saints and All Souls Day, and two Aztec festivals of Souls of the Dead. [Click here for video.](#)
- ◇ **Trans Awareness Week 11/13—11/19**
 - ◇ The week before Transgender Day of Remembrance people and organizations around the country raise visibility of transgender people and address issues members of the community face. [Click here for Tips for Allies.](#)
 - ◇ This year, GLAAD is encouraging everyone to watch the documentary [DISCLOSURE](#) on Netflix. This film explores the history of trans representation in TV and film.
- ◇ **Transgender Day of Remembrance (TDOR) 11/20**
 - ◇ An annual observance that honors the memory of the transgender people whose lives were lost in acts of anti-trans violence that year, inspired by the 1998 murder of [Rita Hester](#).
 - ◇ A Virtual Vigil is being held by PFLAG at 7pm CST [register here.](#)
 - ◇ For more local events, consider the [TDOR: Not One More](#) march and rally held by the Kansas City Anti-Violence Project, Zeke's Freedom Foundation and the Kansas City Center for Inclusion.
- ◇ **Diwali 11/14**
 - ◇ A festival of lights lasting five days. Diwali symbolizes the spiritual "victory of light over darkness, good over evil, and knowledge over ignorance." [Click here for video.](#)
- ◇ **National Hunger & Homelessness Awareness Week 11/15—11/22**
 - ◇ 43.1 Million Americans live below the poverty level. 549,000 Americans are homeless on a typical night. 42 million Americans are at risk of suffering from hunger. 1 in 5 children in the U.S. live in poverty.
 - ◇ Get involved in Kansas City through [Park University's food drive and online donation center!](#)
- ◇ **Native American Heritage Month & Day 11/27**
 - ◇ This month is a time to celebrate the rich and diverse cultures, traditions, and histories and to acknowledge the important contributions of Native people.
 - ◇ Consider listening to [The History of The Native Peoples of the Kansas City Region.](#)
 - ◇ For information regarding the Kansas City Chiefs and their relationship with the American Indian Community Working Group [click here.](#)