On Monday, October 10, this country will observe Indigenous Peoples Day, which aims to recognize and celebrate the impact of Native American culture on society as well as the resilience and strength of Indigenous people. Thousands of cultures, each with unique languages, beliefs, and lifeways, called the Americas home prior to European colonization and had been thriving there for centuries. This was not the mythical, empty wilderness colonizers imagined. Long before contact with Europeans, Indigenous people populated the Americas and were successful stewards and managers of the land.

Native American land holdings were greatly reduced by the development and growth of the United States. According to the U.S. Department of the Interior, a Native American reservation is defined as “an area of land reserved for a tribe or tribes under treaty or other agreement with the United States, executive order, or federal statute or administrative action as permanent tribal homelands, and where the federal government holds title to the land in trust on behalf of the tribe.” Some Native nations were able to retain a portion of their original homelands as reservations. Others were able to negotiate for reservation lands in new locations as a result of being forcibly removed from their original lands. Many Native communities still rely upon hunting, fishing, and gathering for survival. The economies of Native communities are supported through land-based activities such as agriculture, forestry, mining, and energy production.

10 things you would not have without Indigenous people:
• The log cabin was an adaptation of the Indian log or longhouse
• Canoeing, lacrosse, and tug-of-war were sports created by Native Americans
• Corn, 14 different beans, maple syrup, wild rice, pumpkin, and avocado all started with Native American farmers.
• Native Americans invented the first chewing gum
• Although snowshoes were invented in Central Asia, it was adopted by Native Americans in the Great Lakes region of the early Americas. They evolved the shoe into what it is today.
• Barbecues, hammocks, kayaks, and moccasins are all Native American words adopted into our modern culture.
• Native Americans developed and communicated with sign language. They used a system of hand signals to facilitate trades and other communications with other tribes.
• Tobacco, cigars, and pipe smoking were rich Native American traditions.
• Cotton was originally a Native American resource. Europeans saw its value and created an entire slave trade to produce it on a national scale.
• Native Americans were the first known culture to use rubber. They used it to make containers, as well as a ball they played games with.
The original inhabitants of the land that New Orleans sits on were the Chitimacha, with the Atakapa, Caddo, Choctaw, Houma, Natchez, and Tunica inhabiting other areas throughout what is now Louisianana. Check out Native Land Digital to find more information about indigenous lands.

The Tulane Presidential Commission on Racial Equity, Diversity and Inclusion crafted a land acknowledgement, the goal of which was to honor the rich history of the Indigenous communities who continue to provide stewardship of the land we now occupy. Land acknowledgements can be used to begin meetings, classes and presentations.

Native American Heritage Month is celebrated each November.

RESOURCES
- Louisiana Office of Indian Affairs
- National Museum of the American Indian

The annual NAMI Walk is coming up on November 5, 2022, and will be held in Louis Armstrong Park. More information and signup details can be found at this link.

Did you know that all past departmental EDI newsletters have been added online? You can check out previous issues, as well as see past Book and Film Club picks, by clicking this link.

We hope you'll join us for our club meetings (see last page) and for all our exciting events!

Angela
Angela W. Keyes, PhD
Equity, Diversity & Inclusion Officer
Associate Professor of Psychiatry
Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences
Tulane University School of Medicine

Current and active members of ACCE include Kankshi Thakur, Kristen Pearson, Maegen Vincent, Sherry Heller, Amy Mikolajewski, and Hien Le Sanchez. Please email Kankshi Thakur (athakur@tulane.edu) if you are interested in joining!
JEDI CATS Office Hours  
**October 11 & 25, 2022; 5:00 p.m.**

Our Curriculum and Training subcommittee (JEDI CATS) is available to provide support to faculty in their efforts to more intentionally and organically infuse the concepts of EDI in their teaching, training and supervision. This is a great opportunity to collaborate, learn from one another, and practice inclusivity in all that we do. JEDI CATS has standing office hours the first and third Tuesday of each month at 5:00 p.m., with the next meeting happening on October 11. [Click here](#) to join the Zoom.

Film Screening and Panel Discussion: Give Light: Stories from Indigenous Midwives  
**October 11, 2022; 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.**

In penetrating interviews, nine indigenous midwives from five continents discuss the benefits and challenges to their profession. GIVE LIGHT examines traditional midwifery, juxtaposed with modern obstetrics to bridge the gap between traditional wisdom and modern technology. [Click here](#) for details.

Health Equity Summit  
**October 20, 2022; 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.**

Participants will join an interactive dialogue at this free summit focusing on health equity, health disparities and health innovation by exploring keynote presentations and panel discussions by top DEI experts and leaders. [Click here](#) for details.

VPI Journal Club: Systemic Racism and Modern Violence: Redlining  
**October 26, 2022; 12:00-1:00 p.m.**

With academic and lived experience experts, this journal club will examine the impact of violence prevention research has on New Orleans and use existing research to further practice and theory in the city and beyond. Our discussions will center understanding experimental design, critiquing methods, and comprehending how conclusions were drawn. We hope participants will use the experience of this journal club to start asking questions about who is being included at every stage of designing, implementing, and disseminating research. [Click here](#) for details, and to access advance reading materials.

Departmental JEDI Discussion  
**November 4, 2022; 1:00 p.m.**

We will have our department-wide virtual JEDI discussion on Friday, November 4 at 1:00. All faculty, staff and trainees are invited to attend. This month, we are excited to welcome Petey Peterson, Director of the Tulane Office of Gender and Sexual Diversity. They are an expert in the field with nearly a decade of experience doing gender and sexuality work in higher education. This is a wonderful opportunity to learn how to engage in more equitable and inclusive treatment of patients and clients who identify as LGBTQ+. [We hope you will join us](#)!
Film Club
Date and Time: November 7, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.
Link: Please click here to join our Zoom meeting.

From first-time filmmaker and New Orleans native Edward Buckles, Jr., Katrina Babies offers an intimate look at the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina and its impact on the youth of New Orleans. This documentary details the close-knit families and vibrant communities of New Orleans whose lives were uprooted by the 2005 disaster. These American children who were airlifted out of the rising waters, evacuated from their homes to refugee-like centers, or placed in makeshift, temporary living situations, have been neglected. As families were tasked with reintegrating into new communities, having experienced loss, displacement, and lack of support from government officials, the children were left to process their trauma in a wounded, fractured city.

Katrina Babies is available to stream on HBO Max. Dr. Keyes will host a virtual watch party for those who would like to view the film, but do not have access. The viewing will be held separately from the discussion and viewing the film does not obligate you to participate in the discussion (although you are certainly welcome). Click here for details of how to watch along with us.

Book Club
Date and Time: November 17, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.
Link: Please click here to join our Zoom meeting.

In this extraordinary memoir, The Distance Between Us, award-winning writer Reyna Grande vividly brings to life her tumultuous early years, capturing all the confusion and contradictions of childhood, especially one spent torn between two parents and two countries. Elated when she feels the glow of her father’s love and approval, Reyna knows that at any moment he might turn angry or violent. Only in books and music and her rich imaginary life does she find solace, a momentary refuge from a world in which every place feels like “El Otro Lado.” The Distance Between Us captures one girl’s passage from childhood to adolescence and beyond. A funny, heartbreaking, lyrical story, it reminds us that the joys and sorrows of childhood are always with us, invisible to the eye but imprinted on the heart, forever calling out to us of those places we first called home.
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