

Commemorating Juneteenth (June 19th) at WCSU

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To: users-adm <users-adm@wcsu.edu>; users-aca <users-aca@wcsu.edu>; users-stu <users-stu@wcsu.edu>

Dear WCSU Community,

WCSU will again recognize June 19th, also known as *Juneteenth*, Emancipation Day, Jubilee Day and Freedom Day, to honor Black history and culture. On June 19, 1865, in Galveston, Texas, Union Army General Gordon Granger proclaimed freedom from slavery in Texas, almost two and a half years after President Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation, which changed the legal status of enslaved African Americans in the Confederacy from enslaved to free. Although Juneteenth generally celebrates the end of slavery in the United States, it was not until the Thirteenth Amendment of the Constitution was ratified that slavery was abolished nationwide.

As Juneteenth falls on a Saturday this year, I encourage everyone to view this day as an opportunity to reflect upon history and our contemporary society to engage in the racial and social justice work that is critically needed to create a more just and equitable world. The WCSU Racial Justice Coalition will be hosting an in-person gathering on the patio of the *Midtown Student Center on June 19, 2021, from 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.* There will be live music, a barbeque, and refreshments. This event is to bring anyone interested in participating in social justice work together to move those from anger to action. For more information or to RSVP, please contact Professor Carina Bandhauer at bandhauerc@wcsu.edu on this in-person event as COVID restrictions are still in effect for in-person group events.

Best wishes

Dr. John B. Clark
President
Western Connecticut State University