WCSU celebrates International Education Week with events for the public

DANBURY, Connecticut — Western Connecticut State University’s commitment to helping students understand the world continues with a series of events during International Education Week, Nov. 15-19, 2021, with several events open to the public.

Public events include virtual discussions with Dr. Galina Bakhtiarova, professor of Spanish, Department of World Languages and Cultures, regarding foreign-themed movies. Participants are asked to view the following movies in advance and then attend the virtual Thematic Film Discussions:

- “Pain and Glory,” “Talk to Her,” “About My Mother” and “Volver” – virtual discussion about the Spanish films’ director, “The World of Pedro Alodovar,” will take place at 7 p.m. on Monday, Nov. 15, at https://wcsu.webex.com/meet/bakhtiarovag.

- “Babette’s Feast,” Ratatouille,” Tortilla Soup” and “Tampopo” – virtual discussion takes place at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 16, at https://wcsu.webex.com/meet/bakhtiarovag.

- “Surrealism Beyond Borders,” the introduction of the Metropolitan Museum of Art exhibit, at youtube.com/watch?v=G-gyzGqssWio – virtual discussion “Everything You Always Wanted to Know About Surrealism: Surrealism Beyond Borders” at 7 o.m. on Thursday, Nov. 18, at https://wcsu.webex.com/meet/bakhtiarovag.

Additionally, public events include virtual discussions pertaining to foreign-themed movies presented as part of the Latino and Iberian Film Festival at Yale 2021 (LIFYY). The theme for the 2021 Festival is Unidos y Fluidos — Unity in Diversity. To participate, go to https://liffy.yale.edu/liffy-2021.

WCSU hosts International Education Week to help students expand their knowledge of the world and experience different cultures, and to promote diversity. As part of this effort, the university will host events for students including information sessions about opportunities of international involvement and study abroad, including Fulbright and Boren scholarships. Many WCSU students have earned these coveted scholarships and expanded their education overseas. Other offerings during the week include Chinese Calligraphy and culture, the history of the Tango, access to the International Student Association, and international cuisine served during food services on both campuses.

International Education Week was designed as an opportunity to celebrate the benefits of international education and exchange worldwide and is a joint initiative of the U.S. Department of State and the U.S. Department of Education.

For more information, contact the Office of Public Relations at pr@wcsu.edu.

Western Connecticut State University changes lives by providing all students with a high-quality education that fosters their growth as individuals, scholars, professionals and leaders in a global society. Our vision: To be widely recognized as a premier public university with outstanding teachers and scholars who prepare students to contribute to the world in a meaningful way.
What’s new at Western Connecticut State University

University-related diversity activities for Fall 2021 semester

Immediate Announcements

For WCSU students, the Office of Diversity and Equity, in collaboration with the Office of Institutional Advancement, are presenting a new scholarship opportunity sponsored by Webster Bank. Click here to obtain more information on criteria eligibility and to apply online. Deadline to submit an online application is scheduled for September 17, 2021.

Sponsored by the Office of Diversity and Equity in cooperation with various WCSU collaborators.

For the month of September 2021

To commemorate Hispanic/Latinx Heritage Month, below are two university activities that are sure to spark your interests:

The Office of Diversity and Equity is hosting a virtual "Fiesta Latinx" to showcase WCSU students who wish to celebrate Hispanic/Latinx Heritage Month. During the month of September, members of the WCSU community are asked to submit a video lip-syncing a famous song, dance and/or present a creative and impressive story on the unique countries and cultures represented within the Hispanic/Latinx community!

Please show your support to this highly energized activity and support those who participate with the choice(s) in music, dancing, costumes and the dedication of everyone involved. Submissions can be sent to ode@wcsu.edu by no later than Friday, October 1, 2021. Selections will be voted on by members of the WCSU Diversity Council and winners will be notified in mid-October 2021.

The Office of Diversity and Equity, in collaboration with members of the Danbury Public Library, WCSU Social Science Department, Undocu-Ally Taskforce and the WCSU Library Administration, are sponsoring an on-campus WCSU community read discussion on October 21, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. with our featured author, MARIA HINOJOSA. Please click here to learn more about the on-campus event.

To showcase the unique history and experiences of Hispanic and Latinx Americans and to recognize their vital place in the culture at WCSU, the Ruth Haas Library has curated the following list of recommended reading list(s) and database titles:

Diversity Reading Database(s)

Reading List(s) at the WCSU Libraries and online

¡Por favor, disfruta de estas recomendaciones! (Please enjoy from these recommendations!)
For the month of October 2021

To bring awareness to Domestic Violence Awareness Month, below is one university activity to offer more information about this initiative:

During this month, members of the WCSU Campus Response and Resource Team ("CaRRT") are sponsoring this activity to bring critical discussions about sexual harassment and abuse on our campuses.

Preventing and ending sexual violence requires societal change. If we want to assess and respond to the root causes of sexual violence, it starts with addressing widely-held, cultural beliefs. The beliefs that reinforce violence, victim-blaming, or the assumption that survivors of sexual assault are somehow at fault for their own abuse, is among the most damaging. The WCSU CaRRT is asking for members of the WCSU community to take a pledge and be part of this culture change.

Please consider any of the following listed activities:

1. Challenge yourself and others to not use language or expressions that denigrate women and girls ("you throw like a girl") or tease men and boys for not being "manly" enough ("man up") or non-conforming persons about expression that may not conform to their gender identity.

2. Speak up to let others know that their comments are limiting and offensive and have no place on the playing field, in the classroom, at work or in our residence halls.

3. Challenge comments that blame the victim for what has happened to them by letting your friends know that blaming the victim is inappropriate, offensive and encouraging them to consider why society questions the victim’s behavior rather than the perpetrator’s behavior.

4. Learn how you can safely step in and speak up when you’re witnessing behavior that may put someone in danger.

If you have taken the pledge and exercise any of the listed activities, please share this with WCSU CaRRT and send an email at ode@wcsu.edu by Friday, October 15, 2021. Your story and/or comment(s) will be posted on social media with the Office of Diversity and Equity and the Women’s Center for Greater Danbury to share with the university community on how others are showing their support this month.
Diversity Events Calendar

Upcoming Diversity Events

Click here for Activities

September

Hispanic/Latinx Heritage Month

An official celebration of those American citizens whose ancestry can be traced back to Spain, Mexico, Central and South America and the Caribbean. The tradition of the Hispanic/Latinx Heritage celebration started out as a week-long event in 1968. Twenty (20) years later, in 1988, the celebration expanded to dedicate a whole month starting and ending in the middle of the month and inclusive of the Day of the Dead ("Dia De Los Muertos") on November 2nd, to represent a traditional event in Mexico paying homage to loved ones who have passed on.

Hispanic/Latinx Heritage Month pays tribute to the generations of Hispanic/Latinx Americans who have positively influenced and enriched our nation and society. The celebration will take place between September 15th and October 15th and up to November 2nd. The 15th marks as the independence day of five Latin American countries: Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua. While Mexico, Chile, and Belize follow shortly after on the 16th, 18th and 21st respectively.

Other Days of Remembrance

September 6-8 (sundown to sundown): Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish New Year celebration, marking the creation of the world.

September 15-16 (sundown to sundown): Yom Kippur, the holiest day on the Jewish calendar, a day of atonement marked by fasting and ceremonial repentance.

September 18: International Equal Pay Day, celebrated for the first time in September 2020, represents the longstanding efforts towards the achievement of equal pay for work of equal value. It further builds on the United Nations' commitment to human rights and against all forms of discrimination, including discrimination against women and girls.
October

Domestic Violence Awareness Month

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Other Days of Remembrance

**October 1:** Native American Women's Equal Pay Day. The aim is to raise awareness about the wider-than-average pay gap between Native American women and White men. Native American women are paid 57 cents for every dollar paid to white men.

**October 10:** World Mental Health Day. First celebrated in 1993, this day is meant to increase public awareness about the importance of mental health, mental health services, and mental health workers worldwide.

[https://www.wcsu.edu/diversity/events-calendar/](https://www.wcsu.edu/diversity/events-calendar/)
October 11: National Coming Out Day (U.S.). For those who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender, this day celebrates coming out and the recognition of the 1987 march on Washington for gay and lesbian equality.

October 11: National Indigenous Peoples Day, an alternative celebration to Columbus Day, gives recognition to the indigenous populations affected by colonization.

October 20: International Pronouns Day seeks to make respecting, sharing, and educating about personal pronouns commonplace. Each year it is held on the third Wednesday of October.

October 29: Latinx Women’s Equal Pay Day. The aim is to raise awareness about the wider-than-average pay gap between Latinx women and White men. Latinx women are paid 54 cents for every dollar paid to white men.
November is Native American Heritage Month, or as it is commonly referred to as American Indian and Alaska Native Heritage Month. This month is a time to celebrate rich and diverse cultures, traditions, and histories and to acknowledge the important contributions of Native people.

**Other Days of Remembrance**

**November 19:** International Men's Day emphasizes the important issues affecting males, including health issues that affect males, improving the relations between genders, highlighting the importance of male role models and promoting gender equality. This holiday is celebrated in over 70 countries.

**November 20:** Transgender Day of Remembrance, established in 1998 to memorialize those who have been killed as a result of transphobia and to raise awareness of the continued violence endured by the transgender community.

**November 25:** Thanksgiving in the United States. It began as a day of giving thanks for the blessing of the harvest and of the preceding year.

**November 26:** Native American Heritage Day, held annually the Friday after Thanksgiving, encourages Americans of all backgrounds to observe and honor Native Americans through appropriate ceremonies and activities. The day was signed into law by George W. Bush in 2008.
December recognizes National Human Rights Month. This month and every month to follow, everyone in the United States is encouraged to come together and stand up for equality, justice, and the dignity of all humans. December is a time to honor the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, an international document stating the fundamental rights and freedoms to which all human beings are entitled. These rights include freedom from discrimination, the right to equality, and the right to be considered innocent until proven guilty.

**Other Days of Remembrance**

**December 1:** World AIDS Day, commemorating those who have died of AIDS, and to acknowledge the need for a continued commitment to all those affected by the HIV/AIDS epidemic.

**December 3:** International Day of Persons with Disabilities, designed to raise awareness in regards to persons with disabilities in order to improve their lives and provide them with equal opportunity.

https://www.wcsu.edu/diversity/events-calendar/
**December 10**: International Human Rights Day, established by the United Nations in 1948 to commemorate the anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

**December 25**: Christmas Day, the day that many Christians associate with Jesus’ birth.

**November 28-December 6**: Hanukkah, a Jewish holiday that is celebrated around the world for eight days and nights. Hanukkah celebrates the victory of the Maccabees, or Israelites, over the Greek-Syrian ruler, Antiochus, approximately 2,200 years ago.


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**January**

**National Poverty Awareness Month**

January is National Poverty Awareness Month and it gives us at WCSU an opportunity to become more aware of those in need and the ways we can take action to combat poverty. There are over 40 million people living in poverty in the United States. Poverty creates inter-generational issues, causes health issues due to food insecurity, stress, and lack of access to care, and contributes to school-age and university students under-performing and/or missing school.

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**Other Days of Remembrance**

**January 4**: World Braille Day, observed in order to raise awareness of the importance of braille as a means of communication in the full realization of the human rights for blind and partially sighted people. Celebrated on Louis Braille’s birthday, the inventor of braille.
January 18: Martin Luther King Jr. Day commemorates the birth of Martin Luther King Jr., the recipient of the 1964 Nobel Peace Prize and an activist for nonviolent social change until his assassination in 1968.

January 27 (sundown to sundown): The International Day of Commemoration and Holocaust Remembrance Day is a time to remember the victims of the Holocaust. The anniversary of the liberation of the Auschwitz death camp in 1945 and U.N. Holocaust Memorial Day. This time is to also "mourn the loss of lives, celebrate those who saved them, honor those who survived, and contemplate the obligations of the living." — Former President Barack Obama.
February

Black Heritage/History Month

February marks Black Heritage/History Month, a federally recognized, nationwide celebration that calls on all Americans to reflect on the significant roles that African-Americans have played in shaping history in the United States. February marks Black Heritage/History Month, a tribute to African-American men and women who have made significant contributions to America and the rest of the world in the fields of science, politics, law, sports, the arts, entertainment, and many other fields.

While Black Heritage/History Month is synonymous with prominent figures such as Martin Luther King Jr., Harriet Tubman, Rosa Parks, Muhammad Ali, Jackie Robinson, Langston Hughes, Maya Angelou, Marian Anderson and President Barack Obama, there are countless other African-Americans who’ve made a profound impact in history: self-made millionaire Madam C.J. Walker, world-renowned sculptor Edmonia Lewis, carbon filament light bulb inventor Lewis Howard Latimer, open-heart surgeon Daniel Hale Williams, science-fiction writer Octavia E. Butler, and “Father of Black History” Carter G. Woodson, who lobbied extensively to establish Black Heritage/History Month as a nationwide celebration, among many others.

Other Days of Remembrance

February 1: National Freedom Day, which celebrates the signing of the 13th Amendment that abolished slavery in 1865.

February 11: Asian-American Women’s Equal Pay Day. The aim is to raise awareness about the pay gap between Asian-American women and White men. Asian-American women are paid 90 cents for every dollar paid to white men.

https://www.wcsu.edu/diversity/events-calendar/
March

Women's History Month

A nationally recognized celebration throughout March, Women's History Month originates back to 1981. Women's History Month originates back to 1981, when Congress authorized and requested President Reagan to proclaim the week starting March 7, 1982, to be Women's History Week. The week in March was selected to commemorate an 1857 strike for better pay and working conditions held by women working in a garment factory. In 1987, the National Women's History Project successfully petitioned for Congress to designate the month of March to be Women's History Month.
Every March, WCSU finds way to celebrate the contributions of history-making women to our society. From how it began to important dates in March, please support and learn more about this month-long celebration at WCSU.

**Other Days of Remembrance**

**March 13-April 15:** Deaf History Month. This observance celebrates key events in deaf history, including the founding of Gallaudet University and the American School for the Deaf.

**March 17:** St. Patrick’s Day, a holiday started in Ireland to recognize St. Patrick, the patron saint of Ireland who brought Christianity to the country in the early days of the faith.

**March 21:** International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, observed annually in the wake of the 1960 killing of 69 people at a demonstration against apartheid pass laws in South Africa. The United Nations proclaimed the day in 1966 and called on the international community to redouble its efforts to eliminate all forms of racial discrimination.

**March 25:** International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade is a United Nations international observation that offers the opportunity to honor and remember those who suffered and died at the hands of the brutal slavery system. First observed in 2008, the international day also aims to raise awareness about the dangers of racism and prejudice today.

**March 27-April 4:** Passover, an eight-day Jewish holiday and festival in commemoration of the emancipation of the Israelites from slavery in ancient Egypt.

**March 28:** Palm Sunday, a Christian holiday commemorating the entry of Jesus into Jerusalem. It is the last Sunday of Lent and the beginning of the Holy Week.

**March 31:** International Transgender Day of Visibility, celebrated to bring awareness to transgender people and their identities as well as recognize those who helped fight for rights for transgender people.
April

Sexual Assault Awareness Month

Sexual Assault Awareness Month is an annual designation observed in April. During this month, WCSU raises awareness about sexual violence in Danbury and educates our community on how to prevent it and be active bystanders in prevention and awareness.

Cultural Mixology Month at WCSU

https://www.wcsu.edu/diversity/events-calendar/
Our planet is filled with a rainbow of races and religions — all equal in every way. It doesn’t matter if you don’t understand them all or even know they exist, but it matters that you accept everyone and do not judge anyone as less than worthy. We are all in this together, and our ignorance of other’s beliefs is no excuse for intolerance in any form. As we enter April, WCSU would like everyone to take some time to celebrate Diversity Month.

Other Days of Remembrance

**April 2:** World Autism Awareness Day, created to raise awareness of the developmental disorder around the globe.

**April 13:** Equal Pay Day, an attempt to raise awareness about the raw wage gap, the figure that shows that women, on average, earn about 80 cents for every dollar men earn. The date moves earlier each year as the wage gap closes. Equal Pay Day began in 1996 by the National Committee on Pay Equity as a public awareness event to illustrate the gender pay gap.

**April 22:** Earth Day promotes world peace and sustainability of the planet. Events are held globally to show support of environmental protection of the Earth.

**April 23:** The Day of Silence, during which students take a daylong vow of silence to protest the actual silencing of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBTQ+) students and their straight allies due to bias and harassment.

https://www.wcsu.edu/diversity/events-calendar/
May

Asian Pacific American Heritage Month

May is Asian American - Pacific Islander (“AAPI”) Heritage Month—a celebration of Asians and Pacific Islanders in the United States. AAPI Heritage commemoration was first proposed in 1977 to observe the immigration of the first Japanese to the United States (May 7, 1843), and the completion of the transcontinental railroad, constructed mainly by Chinese immigrant workers (May 10, 1869). In 1978, President Carter made it an annual week-long event and President George H.W. Bush extended the proclamation to include the entire month of May.

In the face of increasing anti-Asian bias, WCSU acknowledges and combats its roots in our society and on our campuses. This month we look to highlight resilience of our community, our enduring public service for all Asian-Americans, and the actions we can take to move forward at WCSU.

Other Days of Remembrance

May 5: Cinco de Mayo, a Mexican holiday commemorating the Mexican army’s 1862 victory over France at the Battle of Puebla during the Franco-Mexican War (1861-1867). This day celebrates Mexican culture and heritage, including parades and music performances.

May 17: International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia, a global celebration of sexual-orientation and gender diversities.

May 21: World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development, a day set aside by the United Nations as an opportunity to deepen our understanding of the values of cultural diversity and to learn to live together in harmony.
June is Pride Month which is established to recognize the impact that Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Intersex, Asexual ("LGBTQIA") individuals have had on the world. LGBTQIA groups celebrate this special time with various pride parades, picnics, parties, memorials for those lost to hate crimes and HIV/AIDS, and other group gatherings.

Pride Month is celebrated as a tribute to those who were involved in the Stonewall Riots. With parades, festivals, and concerts, there’s always some way for you to get involved at WCSU as well as learn some important social history along the way.

Other Days of Remembrance

June 15: Native American Citizenship Day, commemorating the day in 1924 when the U.S. Congress passed legislation recognizing the citizenship of Native Americans.

https://www.wcsu.edu/diversity/events-calendar/
**June 19:** Juneteenth, also known as Freedom Day or Emancipation Day. It is observed as a public holiday in 14 U.S. states. This celebration honors the day in 1865 when slaves in Texas and Louisiana finally heard they were free, two months after the end of the Civil War. June 19, therefore, became the day of emancipation for thousands of African-Americans.

**Last Sunday in June:** Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender (LGBT) Pride Day in the United States. It celebrates the Stonewall Riots on June 28, 1969.
What’s new at Western Connecticut State University

Diversity activities sponsored for Spring 2022 semester

For the month of January and February 2022

A Survey on College Student’s Perception on Entertainment Media and the Criminal Justice System

Since October 25, 2021, faculty from the Division of Justice and Law Administration at Western Connecticut State have been conducting research to address the perceptions and degree of accuracy in university students’ information regarding fundamental criminal justice issues often misrepresented by entertainment media. An online survey called PERCEPTIONS has been issued to engage students about the criminal justice system on seven different sections that are presented:

1) Crime & Criminal Justice Overview;
2) Criminal Justice Careers;
3) The Law Enforcement;
4) The Court System;
5) CSI effect;
6) Corrections (The Sentencing) and
7) Demographics.

There are a total of thirty-seven (37) questions and it will take approximately fifteen (15) minutes to complete this survey. The results will be used at an upcoming criminal justice education conference and for further curriculum development.

Please click here to access and participate in this survey. For more information, please contact Hasan Arslan, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Division of Justice and Law Administration, at arlsanah@wcsu.edu, Rainer Kroll, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Division of Justice and Law Administration at krollr@wcsu.edu and/or Thomas Miller, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Division of Justice and Law Administration at millert@wcsu.edu.
I Am Enough Support Group

I Am Enough is a six (6) week free and confidential support group for WCSU LGBTQ+ students and allies, between the ages 18-24. WCSU students can contact me directly to register and ask any questions they may have. This support group will be in-person starting Tuesday, February 1st, 2022, 6:00 p.m. The support group will meet in the WCSU Pride Center, which is located in the West Side Campus, West Side Classroom Building, Room 200.

In honor of Black History Month 2022

Upcoming Virtual Activities to be posted on or by February 1, 2022