



2018-19 Campus Dates

- August 27: Classes Begin
- September 3: Labor Day Holiday
- September 20: Federal Work Study Disbursement
- October 8: Registration Begins for Spring
- October 20: Federal Work Study Disbursement
- October 24: Mid-term Grades Due
- November 2: Last day to Withdraw
- November 20: Federal Work Study Disbursement
- November 18-25: Fall Break (no classes/campus closed)
- December 7: Last Day of classes
- December 8-14: Final Exams
- December 15: Commencement
- December 20: Federal Work Study Disbursement
- December 18: Final Grades Due
- December 24-January 1: Campus Closed
- January 21: No Classes/Campus Closed
- January 22: Classes begin



Native American Heritage Month Icon: Suzan Shown Harjo

An advocate for American Indian rights, Suzan Shown Harjo, Cheyenne and Hodulgee Muscogee, has worked for decades in the fight for Native justice. Helping in the recovery of more than a million acres in Native lands, fighting for national policy and teams to drop Indian mascots since the 1960s, Harjo has been a true leader of Native resistance and appropriately deserves the first mention.

Guest curator Suzan Shown Harjo, Cheyenne and Hodulgee Muscogee, at the entrance to the “Nation to Nation: Treaties Between the United States and the American Indian Nations” exhibition at the Smithsonian’s National Museum of the American Indian on September 16, 2014 in Washington, D.C.

Harjo is also the guest curator and general editor for “Nation to Nation: Treaties Between the United States and American Indian Nation,” a 2014 exhibit and book at the National Museum of the American Indian in Washington, D.C.

Among the general public, Harjo may best be known for filing a lawsuit with the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office to stop the Washington Redskins from using that name and logo, which Harjo and six other prominent Native Americans claim is demeaning to their culture. The football franchise declared a First Amendment “free speech” defense against the lawsuit, but the trademark board agreed with Harjo that the case merited further study.

Harjo and other Native Americans were successful in stopping the University of Oklahoma from using the “Little Red” mascot and name; the Dartmouth University Indians also changed their name as a result of pressure from the group. Several colleges and high schools around the country have stopped using names and mascots that refer to American Indians. “I am really heartened [by the name changes],” Harjo told the Los Angeles Times during a 1994 interview. “That is a really good sign of America growing up and shining a light on racism.”

Sources: <https://newsraven.io/indiancountrytoday/archive/fight-the-power-8-contemporary-heroes-and-leaders-of-native-resistance-wDvfDH2HIE25eUK3eqb8rw/>

<http://biography.yourdictionary.com/suzan-shown-harjo>



Center for Multicultural Education

FALL 2018 ISSUE

In this Issue:

Director Welcome	Pg 1
Hispanic Heritage Month Icon	Pg 2
LGBTQIA+ History Month Icon	Pg 3
Native American Heritage Month Icon	Pg 4

Director Welcome



My name is Latoya Muhammad, and I am the Multicultural Education Director in the Center for Multicultural Education here at Missouri Western State University. We are thrilled to have you be a part of our campus & community. The Center for Multicultural Education is here to serve our underrepresented populations on campus and we would love for you to come by and see our office. We are here to serve you by maintaining an open

door policy, assisting you in finding campus resources to help you be successful, supporting and advising student groups, and encouraging student involvement and leadership opportunities. We strive to educate students through programming, community involvement, and educational workshops. We recognize our students come from diverse backgrounds, which help to enhance the educational experience of all students on our campus. We invite all students to connect with our office through an office visit, a phone call, social media interactions, or an email.

For further questions or information, stop by the Center for Multicultural Education on the second floor of the Nelle Blum Union, Room 207. I can be reached by phone at (816) 271-4150 or via email at cme@missouriwestern.edu. Our hours of operation are Monday – Friday from 8:00 am until 4:30 pm.

Sincerely,

Latoya Muhammad
Multicultural Education Director

STAFF:

Latoya Muhammad
Director

Zoie Reynolds
Program Assistant

Annie Roberts
Administrative Coordinator

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For a list of upcoming events please visit our website:
www.missouriwestern.edu/cme
or find us on social media!

Facebook: MWSU Center for Multicultural Education

Twitter: @mwsu_cme

Instagram: @mwsu_cme



Center for Multicultural Education Resources:

- **Students of Color Initiative Mentoring Program**
- **Library of books that focus on Social Justice Issues**
- **Time Management Tips**
- **Study Tips**
- **Television & Couches**
- **Charging station for phones**
- **Crafting supplies (markers, glue, paper, etc)**
- **Button Maker**
- **Die cuts**
- **Copier/Fax Machine**
- **Butcher Block Paper**
- **Multicultural Guide to St. Joseph & Kansas City**
- **Multicultural Faculty & Staff Resource List**
- **LGBTQIA+ Faculty & Staff Resource List**

Hispanic Heritage Month Icon: Michael Benitez Jr.

Michael Benitez, Ph.D., is a nationally-acclaimed activist-scholar, practitioner, and educator, with experience in diversity issues in higher education. He is known for his down-to-earth, insightful commentary and critical perspectives on social and cultural issues including social justice education, equity and inclusion, diversity and multiculturalism, intercultural development, identity formation, race and ethnic relations, knowledge representation and production, youth and leadership development, student success, and critical pedagogy and praxis.

Dr. Benitez has served higher education in different capacities over the last two decades, including academic and student affairs, equity and inclusion, Title IX, and teaching. Currently, he serves as the Dean of Diversity and Inclusion/Chief Diversity Officer, as well as Title IX Officer, at the University of Puget Sound, providing leadership over the coordination, implementation and assessment of operational and strategic goals related to diversity strategic planning and institutional efforts to foster and sustain an equitable and inclusive campus climate.



In previous roles, Dr. Benitez has served as director of Intercultural Development and the Black Cultural Center at Lafayette College, as adjunct faculty in the Graduate School of Leadership and Professional Advancement at Duquesne University, and as Director of Intercultural Engagement and Leadership at Grinnell College. Informed partly by his poetry and love for spoken word, and as Director of Diversity Initiatives and Social Justice at Dickinson College, Dr. Benitez established the Diversity Monologues, an ongoing annual program aimed at highlighting the creative talents of students while addressing diversity and social justice – a program he has helped implement and shape at multiple institutions.

Source: <https://www.speakoutnow.org/speaker/michael-benitez-jr>

2018-19 Religious & Cultural Calendar

Aug. 6: Transfiguration (Christian)
 Aug. 13-15: Bon/Obon (Buddhist)
 Aug. 15: Dormition of Theotokos (Christian)
 Aug. 20: Waqf al Arafa (Muslim)
 Aug. 22-25: Eid al Adha (Muslim)
 Aug. 29: Raksha/Bandham (Hindu)
 Sept. 1-Sept 13: Onam (Hindu)
 Sept. 3: Krishna Jammashami (Hindu)
 Sept. 4: Ulambana/Ghost Festival (Buddhist)
 Sept. 8: Nativity of Theotokos (Christian)
 Sept. 8: Radha Asthami (Hindu)
 Sept. 10-11: Rosh Hashanah (Jewish)
 Sept. 12: Fast of Gedalliah (Jewish)
 Sept. 12: Muharram (Muslim)
 Sept. 13: Ganesh Chaturhi (Hindu)
 Sept. 14: Triumph of the Cross (Christian)
 Sept. 15-Oct. 15: Hispanic Heritage Month (Cultural Event)
 Sept. 19: Yom Kippur (Jewish)
 Sept. 19: Dasara (Hindu)
 Sept. 21: Ashura (Muslim)
 Sept. 23-Sept. 30: Sukkot (Jewish)
 Sept. 28: Native American Day (Cultural Event)
 Sept. 30: Yom Kippur (Jewish)
 Sept. 30: Hoshanah Rabbah (Jewish)
 All of October: LGBT History Month (Cultural Event)
 Oct. 1: Shemini Atzeret (Jewish)
 Oct. 2: Simchat Torah (Jewish)
 Oct. 9: Birth of Guru Ram Das (Sikh)
 Oct. 9-16: Navarati (Hindu)
 Oct. 12: Spanish National Day (Cultural Event)
 Oct. 23: Birth of Guru Ram Das (Sikh)
 Oct. 28: Reformation Day (Christian)
 Oct. 30: All Hallow's Eve, Reformation Day (Christian)
 All of November: Native American Heritage Month
 Nov. 1: All Saints Day (Christian)
 Nov. 1: Dia de los Muertos (Cultural Event)
 Nov. 2: All Souls' Day (Christian)
 Nov. 3: Birth of Guru Nanak (Sikh)
 Nov. 7: Diwali (Sikh & Hindu)
 Nov. 21: Mawlid al-Nabi (Muslim)
 Nov. 22: Thanksgiving (Cultural Event)
 Nov. 23: Birth of Guru Nanak (Sikh)
 Nov. 23: Martyrdom of Guru Tegh Bahadur (Sikh)
 Nov. 24: Martyrdom of Guru Tegh Bahadur (Sikh)
 Nov. 21: Mawlid al-Nabi (Muslim)
 Dec. 2: Beginning of Advent (Christian)
 Dec. 3-Dec. 10: Hanukkah (Jewish)
 Dec. 8: Feast of Immaculate Conception (Christian)
 Dec. 8: Bodhi Day (Buddhist)
 Dec. 12: Our Lady of Guadalupe (Christian)
 Dec. 24: Christmas Eve (Christian)
 Dec. 25: Christmas (Christian)
 Dec. 26- Jan. 1: Kwanzaa (Cultural Event)
 Dec. 26: Dia de los Santos Inocentes (Cultural Event)
 Dec. 31: New Year's Eve (Cultural Event)
 Jan. 1: New Year's Day (Cultural Event)
 Jan. 4: Birth of Guru Gobind Singh (Sikh)
 Jan. 5: Birth of Guru Gobind Singh (Sikh)
 Jan. 6: Epiphany (Christian)
 Jan. 13: Baptism of the Lord (Christian)
 Jan. 15: Makar Sankranti (Hindu)
 Jan. 14: Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day (Cultural Event)
 Jan. 15: Religious Liberty Day (Cultural Event)
 Jan. 20: World Religion Day (Cultural Event)
 Jan. 20: Tu B'Shvat (Jewish)
 Jan. 21: Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day (Cultural Event)
 Jan. 21: Mahayana New Year (Buddhist)



LGBTQIA+ History Month Icon: D'Lo

D'Lo is a queer/transgender Tamil-Sri Lankan-American actor/writer/comedian whose work ranges stand-up comedy, solo theater, plays, films and music production, poetry and spoken word. He is a co-producer for DisOriented Comedy (mostly female Asian-american nationally touring stand-up comedy showcase).

The documentary by Crescent Diamond based on D'Lo's life/work, called Performing Girl, won the best short documentary award at Outfest 2013, and he was part of the Emmy-Nominated mini-doc series THIS IS ME produced by Rhys Ernst and Zackary Drucker. His tv/film credits include co-starring in the HBO series LOOKING



as Taj, on the Amazon series TRANSPARENT and the Netflix series SENSE 8. This year he is featured in Sundance Fellow Adelina Anthony's feature-length film BRUISING FOR BESOS in the supporting lead role of Rani. He also appears in various Buzzfeed videos, on the web series EASTSIDERS and DYKE CENTRAL and the upcoming Issa Rae/Project Greenlight produced MINIMUM WAGE. His own web-series PRIVATE DICK is in post-production and set to be released this fall.

D'Lo is the creator of the "Coming Out, Coming Home" writing workshop series which have taken place with south Asian and/or Immigrant LGBTQ Organizations nationally, which provide transformative space for workshop participants to write through their personal narratives and share their truths through a public reading. These workshops are specifically designed to provide emotional and spiritual support for individuals working through the complexity of their intersecting identities.

D'Lo also holds a BA from UCLA in Ethnomusicology and is a graduate of New York's School of Audio Engineering (SAE).

Source: <https://www.dlocokid.com/#bio-section>