Hispanic Heritage Month

By Dr. John Johnson, vice president for diversity and inclusion.

Today marks the beginning of Hispanic Heritage Month. At first glance, this may generate positive thoughts of diversity and inclusion. We may think that Hispanic Heritage Month is similar to other heritage month celebrations (Black History Month, Women's History Month, Pride Month, etc.), as an opportunity to celebrate and acknowledge the valuable contributions made by one of the many communities that comprise our nation. In that, it is precisely what Hispanic Heritage Month is, an opportunity to reflect, affirm and bring those too often relegated to the margins to the center, even if just for four weeks.

Hispanic Heritage Month also provides us with an opportunity to interrogate and expand our understanding of pan-ethnic super-category classifications like “Hispanic.” The common application for Whitman’s financial aid package provides an opportunity to indicate if you are “Hispanic/Latino” in a manner similar to the U.S. Census. Like the Census, individuals are asked if they identify as “Hispanic,” and then are asked to select from a predetermined list of pan-ethnic racial categories (White, Asian, Black, American Indian or Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander). The U.S. began collecting data on race starting with the first census in 1790. Data on “Hispanic” or Latino origin was collected for the first time in 1970, more than 150 years after the first decennial census, and respondents to the census were able to select more than one race for the first time in 2000.

Read more.

Campus-Wide Emergency Preparedness Training Today

All members of the Whitman community should participate in one of this year’s campus-wide emergency preparedness training sessions. Presented by Mark Bagby of Emergency Planning Solutions, each session will cover important information to help students, staff and faculty prepare for and respond to emergencies. Members of the Emergency Operations Committee will hold a Q&A at the end of each presentation.

The material presented at each session will be identical, so you only need to attend one. Sessions will take place today at 10 a.m., noon, 4 p.m. and 6 p.m. via Zoom.

Announcements

Show Your Support for Blues Athletics

As the fall athletic season swings into action, you can pick up Blues-branded shirts, hats, mugs and more in the Whitman Athletics online store. From now through the end of the month, you can get 15% off any order of $85 or more.

Holding Events on Campus

Are you, your department or your club/organization holding an event on Whitman’s campus that is open to the public? If so, make sure to review the Visitor/Event Access to Whitman Campus Facilities document, which details what you need to do to run your event in accordance with our vaccination requirement.

Visitor/Event Access Guidelines

Happening Today

4 p.m. [insert event information]
Meet others who share your traditions and worldview, and come find out more about traditions and practices that interested you. Also, make up your own creative works.

4 p.m. [insert event information]
Join a diverse student-organized call (SATRI) in a Safe Space. They do a lot of fun, engaging, stepping out, playing, and dancing. If any of these things sound fun to you, come audition!

multiple times [insert event information]
Campus Emergency Preparedness Training Sessions
Important information to help students, staff and faculty prepare for and respond to emergencies. Members of the Emergency Operations Committee will hold a Q&A at the end of each presentation.

Whitman Events Calendar

Have an event you’d like to share with campus? Submit the information to the Events Calendar.

Whitman Today is produced by the Office of Communications and is emailed Monday through Friday to Whitman College faculty, staff, and students. All times are listed in Pacific Daylight Time.

Submissions are welcome if you have a professional or personal accomplishment to celebrate or an event to publicize. We look forward to sharing with the Whitman community, but email and web submissions must be sent in two weeks. The deadline for the fall issue is Friday, October 1, and web submissions must be sent by Friday, October 8. Content may be held for a later date to fit into the sequence of content. Whitman reserves the right to edit submissions. All text, image, and audio use on Whitman’s social media and Whitman Today is the exclusive property of Whitman College. No reproduction or use of Whitman’s social media or Whitman Today is allowed without written authorization. Previous issues of Whitman Today are archived on our website.