It's January 2014! This month's diversity holidays and awareness days include:

**National Mentoring Month: Mentoring Works!**

National Mentoring Month was created by the Harvard School of Public Health and MENTOR in 2002. National Mentoring Month emphasizes the need for mentors and stresses the importance of working together to increase the number of mentors in order to guarantee brighter futures for young people.

For more information, please visit:

- [National Mentoring Month](#)
- [National Mentoring Month-Wikipedia](#)

**New Year’s Day: Wednesday, 1**

New Year’s Day is perhaps the world’s closest celebration to being the only truly global public holiday because most countries use the Gregorian calendar. Countries that use the Julian calendar also celebrate New Year’s Day on January 1, which corresponds with the Gregorian calendar’s January 14.

Other New Year celebrations occur throughout the year and include the [Chinese New Year](#), [Ethiopian New Year](#), [Hindu New Year](#), [Iranian New Year](#), [Islamic New Year](#), [Israeli New Year](#) (uses the Gregorian calendar but does not celebrate the New Year), [Japanese New Year](#), [Korean New Year](#), [Malayalam New Year](#), [Rosh Hashanah](#) (Jewish New Year), [Sinhalese New Year](#), [Tamil New Year](#), [Telugu New Year](#), [Thai New Year](#), and the [Vietnam New Year](#).

For more information, please visit:

- [New Year’s Day-Wikipedia](#)

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Emancipation Day: Wednesday, 1

This year marks the 151st anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation. As the third year of the Civil War approached, President Abraham Lincoln signed the document into law on January 1, 1863 freeing the slaves in the Southern states. While the Proclamation was limited (it did not end slavery in the nation, only the states that had seceded from the Union; it exempted parts of the Confederacy that were already under Northern control; and the freedom it promised depended on the Union military victory), it declared that black men would be accepted into the Union Army and Navy. Almost 200,000 black soldiers and sailors had fought for the Union and freedom by the end of the war in 1865.

For more information, please visit:

- National Archives
- Emancipation Proclamation-Wikipedia

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Martin Luther King, Jr. Day: Monday, 20

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day is a floating holiday observed on the third Monday of January each year and honors Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Rev. King was a leader during the civil rights movement and the chief spokesperson for nonviolent activism. In eleven years (1957-1968), he spoke over twenty-five hundred times and traveled over six million miles. On April 4, 1968 while preparing to lead a protest march with striking garbage workers in Memphis, TN, he was assassinated standing on the balcony of his motel room.

Soon after his death, the campaign for a federal holiday in his honor began. Fifteen years later, Ronald Reagan signed the holiday into law. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day was first observed three years later, on January 20, 1986. MLK Day was not officially observed in all 50 states until 2000, 32 years after his death.
For more information, please visit:

- **I Have a Dream-**YouTube video
- **The King Center**
- **Martin Luther King, Jr.-**Nobelprize.org
- **Martin Luther King, Jr. Day-**Wikipedia
- **Martin Luther King, Jr.-**Wikipedia

For more information on diversity and inclusion or to submit diversity and inclusion ideas, articles, and events, please visit **Extension’s Social Justice** website or contact me at **Tonya.Michael@mail.wvu.edu** / 304-293-8948 / 406 Knapp Hall, Morgantown WV 26506.