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

**African American/Black History Month:**

Dr. Carter G. Woodson was born to slave parents and grew up in Huntington, WV. In his quest for education, he moved to Fayette Co., WV and worked as a coal miner devoting a few months each year to education. After he graduated from Douglass High School he taught in Fayette Co and was selected as principal of DHS in 1900. He went on to earn his Ph.D. from Harvard University.

Bothered by the lack of historical reference to Black Americans in his studies, Woodson founded the Association for the Study of Negro Life in 1915 and the Journal of Negro Life the following year. A decade later, in an effort to bring national attention to the struggles and contributions of Black Americans, he began Negro History Week. Woodson chose the second week in February because the birthdays of Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln both fell within this week. Douglass and Lincoln dramatically and positively affected the lives of African/Black Americans. In 1976, fifty years later, Negro History Week was expanded to a full month and is now known as African American/Black History Month.

For more information, please visit:

- [African American History Month.gov](#)
- [African American/Black History Month-Wikipedia](#)
- [Black History Month-History.com](#)
- [Black History Month-Smithsonian](#)
Valentine’s Day: Friday, 14

While mystery surrounds Valentine’s Day, it is celebrated worldwide (Eastern Christian churches celebrate on July 6). Valentine’s Day has roots in both Christian and ancient Roman tradition and is named for one or more early Christian saints. Since the 15th century it has evolved into more of a commercial celebration associated with hearts, roses, chocolates, doves, a winged cupid, love poems and cards.

For more information, please visit:

- Valentine’s Day-Wikipedia
- Valentine’s Day-History.com

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Susan B. Anthony Day: Friday, 15

Susan B. Anthony was an American civil rights leader who fought for women’s rights. She co-founded the first Women’s Temperance Movement and the women’s rights journal, The Revolution. As a youth, she avoided public speaking because she was afraid that she would not be eloquent enough. In 1872, she was arrested by a U.S. Deputy Marshal for voting in the presidential election.

Only 3 states in the U.S. observe this day: Florida, Wisconsin and West Virginia.

For more information, please visit:

- Susan B. Anthony Museum
- Susan B. Anthony-Wikipedia
- Susan B. Anthony Day-Wikipedia

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Presidents’ Day: Monday, 17

Originally named Washington’s Birthday and celebrated on the 22nd, this holiday was moved to the third Monday in February as part of the Uniform Monday Holiday Act—an attempt to provide more three-day weekends for workers. Today this holiday celebrates all U.S. presidents past and present.

For more information, please visit:

- Washington’s Birthday-Wikipedia
- Presidents’ Day-History.com

World Day of Social Justice: Thursday, 20

The United Nation’s World Day of Social Justice is observed annually and encourages people to examine the effects of social justice on poverty eradication and emphasizes the goal of people to achieving full employment and social integration support.

For more information, please visit:

- The United Nations

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.