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

**Women’s History Month: Women’s Education – Women’s Empowerment**

Since 1909 women’s history has been recognized through celebrations of respect and appreciation towards women’s economic, political and social achievements. The Socialist Party of America declared February 18, 1909 as the first national Women’s Day in the U.S. In August 1910, German Socialist Luise Zietz, inspired by the American socialist, proposed an annual “International Woman’s Day.” While no date was given, 100 women delegates from 17 countries agreed that the strategy would help promote equal rights for women. On March 8, 1911 Clara Zetkin, leader of the Women’s Office for the Social Democratic Party in Germany, helped launch International Women’s Day in Copenhagen, Denmark. In 1978, the school district of Sonoma, California, held a weeklong celebration to honor women’s contributions to history, culture and society. The week of March 8 was declared National Women’s History Week in 1980 by President Jimmy Carter. In 1987, the National Women’s History Project successfully petitioned Congress to declare March as Women’s History Month.

Check out the National Women’s History Museum to learn more about women’s history. Did you know that 35 women have run for President of the United States? Check out the NWHM spotlight on 12 “Women Who Ran President”

Think you know Women’s History? Test your knowledge and crossword skills at infoplease.

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**Mardi Gras: Tuesday, 4**

Mardi Gras, French for Fat Tuesday, generally refers to the Christian celebrations that begin on or after the Epiphany and end on the day before Ash Wednesday, which begins the ritual fasting for the season of Lent. Celebrations are typically carnival-like and include parades, dancing, wearing costumes and masks, sports competitions and more.

For more information, please visit:

- Mardi Gras-History.com
- Mardi Gras-New Orleans
- Mardi Gras-Wikipedia

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International Women’s Day: Saturday, March 8

Also known as the United Nations Day for Women’s Rights and International Peace, this is an annual celebration of women’s achievements throughout history and across all nations.

“The story of women's struggle for equality belongs to no single feminist nor to any one organization but to the collective efforts of all who care about human rights.”
~ Gloria Steinem

For more information, please visit:

- International Women’s Day
- The United Nations

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Deaf History Month: Thursday, March 13-Tuesday, April 15

Deaf History Month, while not officially recognized by the White House, potentially had its start on March 13, 1997 during the Deaf History Month event at the D.C. Public Library.

Deaf History Month celebrates three key events in the history of deaf Americans: the first public school for the deaf, the American School for the Deaf, opened on April 15, 1817; on April 8, 1864, President Lincoln signed a charter allowing what is now Gallaudet University to grant college degrees to deaf and hard of hearing students; and the Deaf President Now movement which led to the selection of the first deaf president of Gallaudet University, Dr. I. King Jordan, on March 13, 1988.

For more information visit Bridging Deaf Cultures.

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International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination: Friday, March 21

The United Nations’ International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination is an annual observation that reminds people of the negative consequences of racial discrimination and encourages people to help end it.

For more information, please visit:

- The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
- The United Nations

Irish-American Heritage:

For information about Irish-American Heritage please visit:

- The American Irish Historical Society
- The Irish American Cultural Institute
- The Irish American Heritage Center

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Greek-American Heritage:

For information about Greek-American Heritage please visit:

- The Hellenic Society Paideia
- The Greek America Foundation
- The National Hellenic Society
- The Onassis Foundation

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.