

Dear Cardinal Staff,

The Staff Senate would like to recognize the significance of the upcoming holiday – Juneteenth. The University will officially observe Juneteenth (June 19) for the first time this year by canceling classes and closing offices on Friday, June 18. Our gratitude goes to the UofL’s Black Faculty and Staff Association for leading the advocacy efforts for Juneteenth to be formally recognized by the University.

Juneteenth commemorates the end of slavery which took place more than two years after President Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation. Despite what history has taught many of us, the Emancipation Proclamation did not end slavery, as areas under the Confederate control did not honor it. It wasn’t until June 19, 1865, two months after Confederate general Robert E. Lee surrendered, Gordon Granger, a Union general, traveled to Galveston, Texas to let enslaved African Americans know that the Civil War was over and they were free. The delay was an example of this country’s struggle with systemic racism and injustice (freedom and justice have always been delayed for African Americans) and resurfaced across the nation after protests sparked by the killing of Breonna Taylor, George Floyd and many other.

Although UofL’s recognition of this day as a significant day in our nation’s history is an important first step, there is much more to be done – both collectively and individually - if we wish to become a truly anti-racist University. Next steps should include:

- Inclusion of all parts of this country’s history, including Juneteenth, into the curriculum and the acknowledgement of the full impact that slavery has had on this country
- Advocacy for Juneteenth becoming an observed holiday in the state of Kentucky
- Support for the use of critical race theory in our educational systems

In the meantime, we have included some suggestions below for things you can do in observance of Juneteenth. They all start with the recognition and acknowledgement of the historical harms perpetrated on African Americans through the institution of slavery, and the way in which that system of white supremacy lives on in many of systems, practices, policies, and procedures. In other words, the harms did not end when slavery did.

Ways to observe Juneteenth at home and/or with your families:

- Watch Black history films, series, and documentaries that celebrate and center Black history and voices on [Netflix](#) and [Amazon Prime](#).
- Check out the "Juneteenth" episode of the TV series *Blackish* (Season 4, Episode 1) on [Hulu](#) or [Google Play/AppleTv](#).
- Take the [self-guided Civil Rights tour of Louisville](#)
- Support local Black-owned businesses: [theblackbusinessapp.com](#).
- [Find a book on Black history](#) to enjoy. Consider purchasing your book from a [black-owned bookshop](#).

Ways to observe Juneteenth with your Cardinal community:

- [Juneteenth Lecture Series](#) - Monday, June 14, 12 p.m.
A hybrid event featuring guest Melissa Harris-Perry, nationally known writer, professor, television host and political commentator. Harris-Perry’s presentation will be delivered virtually and will be followed by a Q&A session moderated by UofL Professors Ricky Jones and Brigitte Burpo. Swain Student Activities Center Ballroom and online. Registration requested.
- [Learning Café: “Juneteenth - The Cost of Independence. The History of What It Really Means to Be Free”](#) - Tuesday, June 15, 12 p.m.

Featuring Lamont Collins, founder of the Roots 101 African American Museum in Louisville. Sponsored by the UofL Employee Success Center.

- [Noir Louisville's Juneteenth Experience - Educating and Celebrating Juneteenth](#) - June 17, 11:30 a.m.

Trivia event that will explore the history of Juneteenth and celebrate Black culture. Sponsored by the Black Faculty/Staff Association and Noir Louisville

- [Eagles to Rest Project](#) - Saturday, June 19, 8:30-11:30 a.m.

Help restore Greenwood Cemetery, where hundreds of Black military veterans are buried. The program is headed by the National Association for Black Veterans. UofL's participation is sponsored by the UofL Alumni Association, Office of Community Engagement, the Cultural Center, the Multicultural Teacher Recruitment Program and the African American Alumni Council.

- ["The Taboo of Race: Color-Blind Racism and the Violent Brain"](#) - Monday, June 21, 12 p.m.

Prof. Oliver Rollins (Sociology) explores the ways race, racism and other social processes of inequality impact the making and use of neuroscience. Sponsored by the Office of Diversity and Equity and the BFSA.

- ["Joining the Conversation: Becoming Antiracist"](#) - Monday, June 21, 5-7 p.m.

Moving beyond Conversations about racism and into antiracist action by building a shared understanding of what it means to be an antiracist and how to take appropriate action as individuals and collectively to foster a more equitable and inclusive community.

Conversation topics are based on Dr. Ibram X. Kendi's Bestselling text, "How To Be an Antiracist". Sponsored the Office of Diversity Education & Inclusive Excellence, Office of the President, Senior Associate Vice President for Diversity & Equity, and Louisville Alumni.