Diversity on Campus: Awareness and Knowledge About Our Newest Federal Holiday

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Land Acknowledgment

I acknowledge with respect the Onondaga Nation, firekeepers of the Haudenosaunee, the Indigenous people on whose ancestral lands Syracuse University now stands.
Project Assignment

Mid-May 2021:

- Syracuse University Office of Diversity and Inclusion plans a celebration of Juneteenth from June 1-June 19

- Office of Diversity and Inclusion reaches out to Syracuse University Libraries for help putting together a reading list for each day of the celebration
Stakeholders and Collaborators

• **Syracuse University Office of Diversity and Inclusion**
  - Executive Director of Strategic Communications and Initiatives
    - Liaison to Syracuse University Libraries
    - Creator of the Syracuse University Juneteenth Commemoration website

• **Syracuse University Libraries**
  - Diversity and Inclusion Committee
  - Head of Collections and Research Services
  - Social Science Librarian
    - These people helped compile and vet the reading list
    - Social Science Librarian created LibGuide for Juneteenth including reading list
The Process

• Organic
  – Not boxed into a pre-set process

• Greater than the sum of its parts
  – A testament to what happens when a diverse group of people work on a project who share credit with each other
    ▪ Helped meet the quick deadline
    ▪ Helped improve the quality of the readings
    ▪ Helped extend the reach of the project
    ▪ Paves the way for future collaborations
The Readings

- June 1-2: Introductory Readings
- June 3-4: Primary Sources
- June 5-6: Articles about the History of Juneteenth Celebrations
- June 7: Book on Black Women and Resistance to Slavery
- June 8: Book on Reconstruction
- June 9-10: Books on Juneteenth and Other Emancipation Celebrations
- June 11-13: Books on the End of Reconstruction, the Jim Crow Era, and the Civil Rights Movement
- June 14-15: Juneteenth in Fiction
- June 16-17: Books on the Struggle for Expanding Civil Rights in the 21st Century
- June 18-19: Articles on Juneteenth Today and Moving Forward

Full Reading List Available at:
https://diversity.syr.edu/resources/juneteenth/
https://researchguides.library.syr.edu/juneteenth-2021
Lessons for Future Collaborations

- Collaboration among different individuals and campus offices can really enhance projects, without too many collaborators slowing down things.

- We can reach out to other campus offices, student organizations, and even groups outside the university to develop collaborations promoting Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion.

- We will identify items in our collections that support Equity, Diversity and Inclusion, especially regarding relevant commemorations, to see how we might supplement those items proactively in multiple formats.
Parting Question

Now that Juneteenth is a federal holiday, how do we maintain the spirit of the holiday? How do we not lose “the reason for the season”? 
Thank You

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