

Official Statement

Salt Lake Community College Proudly Backs USHE's Resolution to Support and Celebrate Juneteenth

June 16, 2021

The Utah System of Higher Education (USHE) is an integral connection between the Utah Board of Higher Education and Utah's public colleges and universities. [The USHE Resolution to Support and Celebrate Juneteenth](#) is significant as it acknowledges the day when enslaved peoples in Texas learned of the 1863 Emancipation Proclamation issued by President Lincoln more than two years earlier. We celebrate Juneteenth as our newest federal holiday and look forward to the national attention that will bring to the issue of systemic racism.

As a curator of knowledge and advanced learning, Salt Lake Community College is committed to providing an inclusive and correct account of history as well as a safe and inviting environment for African American, African and Black students, faculty and staff. SLCC acknowledges that not affirming diverse cultural identities and histories reinforces racism and its adverse impacts on society.

As an institution, we actively work to close opportunity and attainment gaps for African American, African and Black students by implementing [specific strategies to address issues of equity and completion](#). The college also consistently strives to develop, promote, and maintain support systems to help students of color navigate unfamiliar or potentially biased landscapes and processes. We also have policies and procedures in place to increase diversity in hiring and embrace equity-mindedness and inclusive practices in the workplace and academic culture. Education is one of the best ways to promote a more inclusive and equitable society, and as our country works to shed the vestiges of systemic racism, our work is more crucial than ever.

USHE's Resolution to Support and Celebrate Juneteenth provides a framework for Salt Lake Community College on how the institution can not only honor Juneteenth but also advance equity, justice and accountability at the college. As such, SLCC is proud to officially support USHE's resolution and pledges its ongoing commitment to fulfilling the aims outlined in the document.

Note: SLCC encourages students, faculty, and staff to learn more about the significance of Juneteenth by participating in community events such as the [Salt Lake County Library Juneteenth Festival](#). College-wide event programming surrounding Juneteenth is being planned for 2022.