

Belonging

the newsletter from the *FIRST* NC ED&I Team – June 2022

Equity – Treating everyone fairly, having equal opportunities and removing barriers

Diversity – The way we are all different

Inclusion – Creating space for everyone where differences are embraced

Team Activities for Diversity and Inclusion:

[Learning for Justice \(previously Teaching Tolerance\) provides a Juneteenth lesson / discussion starting point](#) targeted at 9th-12th graders that outlines some **essential questions**, including

- What does Juneteenth tell us about our ideas about the United States?
- Why do some Americans celebrate Juneteenth?
- What does Juneteenth mean to America?
- What can be concluded about how people celebrate and define freedom in America?
- What should all Americans understand about Juneteenth?
- Should Juneteenth be a national/federal holiday? [*Since the lesson was published in April 2021, Juneteenth has been declared a national holiday in the United States - this could be a good opportunity to discuss why it was made a national holiday*]

Do you have tips for other teams on how to include people and help them feel they belong?

Send them to FIRSTNC-EDI@googlegroups.com and we'll include them in upcoming newsletters.

From *FIRST*: Just in case you missed it! - Build The Future Spotlight: Team Lunatecs #316 from NJ

Developing and Donating Adaptive Devices for Those in Need: Our team, Lunatecs, cares deeply about meeting unmet needs in our community. We use the skills we have learned through *FIRST*® to design, fabricate, and donate adaptive devices to improve the lives of physically challenged individuals and the organizations that serve them. Read more

<https://community.firstinspires.org/build-the-future-spotlight-lunatecs>

June Events:

LGBT+ Pride Month (LGBT+ folks): commemorates the Stonewall Riots and seeks to recognize the impact LGBT+ people have had around the world

Caribbean American Heritage Month (Caribbean Americans): recognizes the significance of Caribbean culture and history in the U.S.

June 2nd – Indian Citizenship Act of 1924 (Native Americans): granted the right of citizenship to all Native Americans born in the U.S. However, the right to vote was not granted until 1957

June 12th – Loving Day (Black Americans): anniversary of a historic court decision for interracial marriage

Puerto Rican Day Parade (Puerto Ricans): largest demonstration of cultural pride in the United States. It promotes prominent, historical figures and seeks to raise awareness of critical issues in the community

June 19th – Juneteenth (Black Americans): also known as Freedom Day, marks the anniversary of when African Americans first learned of the Emancipation Proclamation. It was more than two years after it was initially issued

June 27th – Birthday of Helen Keller (People with Disabilities): known as a DeafBlind icon, Keller was one of the 20th century's leading humanitarians and co-founder of the ACLU (American Civil Liberties Union)

Inspiration & Recognition Spotlight: Eyra Abraham

Born: Toronto, Canada.



Eyra Abraham is a Founder/CEO of Lisnen, a Toronto-based startup that develops technology for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. Initially, she started her career in tech then pivoted into marketing and communications within the public sector. Her love for technology and innovation drew her back to founding her company. As someone who is hard of hearing and knows the challenges that members of the hearing loss communities face too well, Eyra's mission is to make the world safer and more inclusive by applying advanced technologies.

Click the following link to learn more: [Eyra Abraham - Entrepreneur](#)

ED&I Retention and Participation Tips: *Provide transportation solutions.*

Help students by providing alternate transportation arrangements. This will make meetings more accessible for those who have trouble accessing transportation to and from *FIRST*® team meetings. Ensuring everyone can travel to and from meetings easily sends a message that you value every student's participation.

Click the following link to learn more: <https://www.firstinspires.org/resource-library/training-equity-diversity-inclusion>

The *FIRST* NC ED&I Team: Contact us at: FIRSTNC-EDI@googlegroups.com

We are a team of coaches/mentors who want to help create a community and culture of people who embrace the values of equity, diversity, and inclusion, who want to develop themselves, and who understand that growth and diversity of all types lead to team excellence.

Anisha Patel - The Pitt Pirates 2642

Linda Whipker - Team PyroTech 3459

Dave Lashley - Team SPORK 3196

Melissa "Bee" Bube - Girls on Fire 5679

All Editions are Available Online at: <https://www.firstnorthcarolina.org/belonging-newsletter>