



THE BRIEN CENTER

Diversity • Equity • Inclusion

Your courage, our care.

NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2022

ARAB AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

The culture of Arab Americans will be honored this month, with the designation by the State Department of April as Arab American Heritage Month, reflecting the group's contributions to the United States.

The United States is home to more than 3.5 million Arab Americans representing a diverse array of cultures and traditions. Arab Americans trace their origins to 22 Arabic-speaking countries in the Middle East and North Africa. Arabs began immigrating to the US in the late 1800s fleeing war, persecution and economic hardships, according to the Migration Policy Institute. California, New York, Michigan and Illinois have the largest populations of Arab American residents in the country, based on data from the 2015-2019 ACS Ancestry survey.



INCLUSIVE LANGUAGE HIGHLIGHT OF THE MONTH

Socioeconomic Status (SES): Encompasses not only income but also educational attainment, occupational prestige, and subjective perceptions of social status and social class. SES encompasses quality-of-life attributes and opportunities afforded to people within society and is a consistent predictor of a vast array of psychological outcomes (APA, 2019a).

Avoid the use of the terms, "the poor", "low-class people" or "poor people." Replace with terms like "people whose incomes are below the federal poverty threshold." Many people find the terms "lowclass" and "poor" pejorative. Use person-first language instead. Define income brackets and levels if possible.

NATIONAL DAY OF SILENCE APRIL 8TH

Observed annually on the Second Friday in April, the National Day of Silence sheds light on the disastrous effects of bullying and harassment of LGBTQ students in schools. This day students across the US take a vow of silence to illustrate the silencing effect when LGBTQ students are bullied.

The Day of Silence was first organized in 1996 at the University of Virginia by student leaders Maria Pulzetti and Jessie Gilliam. Pulzetti wanted to do something impactful at school for the upcoming Pride week as she felt that the complaints and concerns about harassment of LGBTQ students were ignored consistently by administrators and parents as well.

And this drove them to the idea of having a Day of Silence to stand up against harassment and bullying of the LGBTQ. She believed that their vow of silence could help people notice, become aware of bullying and harassment against this community.

<https://youtu.be/l8QNg-brsZl>



Climate

The degree to which community members feel included or excluded in the work group, organization, or community (APA, 2021b).

Questions/Comments/Suggestions for the DEI Committee ?

Contact Us: DEI@briencenter.org