

**RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT AND CELEBRATE JUNETEENTH
WITHIN THE UTAH SYSTEM OF HIGHER EDUCATION**

WHEREAS, Juneteenth, also known as Freedom Day, Jubilee Day, Liberation Day, and Emancipation Day, celebrates the emancipation of those who had been enslaved in the United States; and

WHEREAS, the nineteenth day of June is officially recognized as the day when enslaved peoples in Texas learned of the 1863 Emancipation Proclamation that had been issued by President Lincoln more than two years earlier; and

WHEREAS, during this time, the nation celebrates the accomplishments, inventions, triumphs, and resiliency of African American, African, and Black peoples in this country; and

WHEREAS, each Juneteenth is an opportunity for the Board to reflect on the previous year's efforts and renew the System and institutional commitment to closing opportunity and attainment gaps for African American, African, and Black students, staff, and faculty persisting within Utah higher education; and

WHEREAS, the Board commits to recognize, rectify, improve, strengthen, and support African American, African, and Black peoples; and

WHEREAS, the Board acknowledges that failing to affirm and celebrate the diverse cultural identities and histories that exist in Utah and its institutions reinforces systemic racism, trauma, and erasures that impact students, staff, and faculty; and

WHEREAS, institutions of higher education are curators of knowledge and advanced learning that are expected to provide an exhaustive, complex, and inclusive account of history; and

WHEREAS, although remembering and celebrating Juneteenth promotes the unique lived experience, plight, and persistence of African American, African, and Black peoples, it also provides an opportunity for those not of this demographic to seek knowledge and awareness, obtain skills necessary to interact and communicate in a global society, and to learn from the past to better serve all current and future generations; and

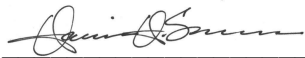
WHEREAS, observing Juneteenth, and other days of cultural remembrance, is the first step to acknowledging our commitments and actions to advance equity, justice, and accountability;

THEREFORE, the Utah System of Higher Education proclaims support for celebrating Juneteenth and encourages its institutions of higher education to adopt new traditions that commemorate this historic time. In council with African American, African, and Black higher education leaders, administrators, staff, and faculty, the Board has gathered the following approaches as potential ways to recognize, celebrate, and honor Juneteenth:

- 1. Allocate funding to support events and academic scholarship that expands awareness of African American, African, and Black history and culture.*
- 2. Share transparent institutional and statewide representation data for Black students, staff, faculty, and administration to better inform current and future policy and programming.*
- 3. Establish a statewide advisory board to oversee the annual Expect the Great conference for Utah's African, African American, and Black students.*

4. *Support and highlight African diaspora centers and initiatives that advance academic discourse, education, and support African, African American, and Black students at Utah institutions.*
5. *Provide mental health support for and by Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC) that takes into account racial trauma and healing.*
6. *Provide funding for high impact practices that are sustainable and culturally relevant, such as student educational travel to historical museums, landmarks, and spaces across the country, such as the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center, International Civil Rights Center & Museum, Frederick Douglass National Historic Site, Historic Charleston's Religious and Community Buildings, and the National Museum of African American History & Culture.*

Dated this 21st day of May 2021.



*Harris H. Simmons, Chair
Utah Board of Higher Education*



*Dave R. Woolstenhulme
Commissioner of Higher Education*