



University of New Mexico Staff Council 2022 Resolution #1

Name: Designate June 19, Juneteenth National Independence Day, as an official UNM holiday

Authors: Grace Faustino, Precinct 6; Lorena Blanco-Silva, Grade 13; Angela Beauchamp, Precinct 4; Bryn McCabe-Kelly; Yadéeh Sawyer, Grade 12

1. Whereas, Juneteenth marks the anniversary of June 19, 1865, when enslaved people in the Southwestern states finally received word that President Lincoln had signed the Emancipation Proclamation more than two and a half years earlier. Also known as Freedom Day or Emancipation Day, it celebrates and commemorates the ending of slavery in the United States; and
2. Whereas, in 2021 the Juneteenth National Independence Day Act established June 19 as a national holidayⁱ; and
3. Whereas, Juneteenth has been a New Mexico state holiday since 2006ⁱⁱ; and
4. Whereas the Albuquerque City Council unanimously declared Juneteenth a city holiday in 2021ⁱⁱⁱ; and
5. Whereas, City of Albuquerque^{iv} and City of Rio Rancho^v offices and Central New Mexico Community College^{vi} are all closed for Juneteenth (or the Friday or Monday nearest the day); and
6. Whereas, major universities across the country have declared Juneteenth a paid holiday for staff and do not hold classes on that day. This includes the following peer institutions: University of Texas^{vii}, University of California^{viii}, University of Oklahoma^{ix}, University of Utah^x, University of South Florida^{xi}, Virginia Commonwealth University^{xii}, and the University of Florida^{xiii} systems; and
7. Whereas, the historical significance of Juneteenth is important to our country and to diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging within our university; and
8. Whereas, our country and our university continue to reckon with and work to address the systemic racism and discrimination that are the legacies of slavery; and
9. Whereas, observing Juneteenth creates a space and time for reflection to honor the progress made and consider additional steps we may take to create a more just, fair, and equitable campus and beyond; and
10. Whereas, during Juneteenth the nation celebrates the accomplishments, inventions, triumphs, and resiliency of African American, African, and Black peoples in this country; and
11. Whereas, as the Flagship University of New Mexico, recognition of Juneteenth signals a commitment to advance racial and social justice and encourages and supports an antiracist campus culture; and

12. Whereas, UNM recognizes federal holidays as both standalone holidays and days off added to winter break and designating Juneteenth as a paid holiday would put UNM at the forefront of New Mexico higher education institutions.

13. Resolved, That Staff Council requests that the University of New Mexico adopt an official Juneteenth holiday; and

14. Resolved, That Staff Council requests that UNM add Juneteenth as an additional holiday without subtracting from the winter break; and

15. Resolved, That Staff Council requests that the Juneteenth holiday be supplemented with learning opportunities and events that deepen discussions about racial injustice, acknowledging and amplifying narratives of our Black communities.

Copies of this Resolution shall be sent to the UNM Board of Regents; Dr. Garnett Stokes, President of the University of New Mexico; Teresa Costantinidis, Senior Vice President for Finance and Administration; Dr. James Holloway, Provost and Executive Vice President of Academic Affairs; Dr. Douglas Ziedonis, Executive Vice President for HSC and CEO of the UNM Health System; Dr. Assata Zerai, Vice President for Equity and Inclusion; Cinnamon Blair, Chief Marketing and Communications Officer; Kathy Agnew and Kevin Stevenson, Assistant Vice Presidents for Human Resources; and The Daily Lobo.

Reference Material

<https://www.insidehighered.com/news/2020/06/19/colleges-acknowledge-juneteenth-holiday1>

https://www.insightintodiversity.com/_trashed-2/

<https://hrexecutive.com/more-employers-add-juneteenth-as-a-paid-holiday-this-year/>

ⁱ <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/legislation/2021/06/17/bill-signed-s-475/>

ⁱⁱ <https://www.nmlegis.gov/Legislation/Legislation?Chamber=H&LegType=B&LegNo=228&year=06>

ⁱⁱⁱ <https://www.koat.com/article/albuquerque-city-council-members-vote-unanimously-to-declare-juneteenth-an-annual-holiday/32911863>

^{iv} <https://www.cabq.gov/holiday>

^v <https://rrnm.gov/336/Observed-City-Govt-Holidays>

^{vi} <https://www.cnm.edu/depts/hr/policies-and-procedures/the-source/is-2022/is-2022-holidays>

^{vii} <https://hr.utexas.edu/current/leave/holidays>

^{viii} <https://www.uc.edu/about/registrar/calendars/academic-year-calendars/2021-2022-academic-calendar.html>

^{ix} <https://www.ou.edu/payroll/holidays-time-off-leave/holiday>

^x <https://www.hr.utah.edu/benefits/holiday.php>

^{xi} <https://www.usf.edu/hr/benefits/attendance-leave/holiday-schedule.aspx>

^{xii} <https://hr.vcu.edu/current-employees/paydays-and-holidays/>

^{xiii} <https://benefits.hr.ufl.edu/time-away/holidays/>