
From: Bernadine Fong <fongbernadine@fhda.edu>
Sent: Friday, June 17, 2022 3:24 PM
To: foothill
Cc: centralservices
Subject: Juneteenth!

Greetings to everyone,

Juneteenth is the 1st birthday of my grandson, but more importantly (sorry to the parents), it is a date that should be as important to us as the 4th of July. Please enjoy this upcoming three day weekend, but please do remember the significance of this Federal holiday and while it is a holiday for our college and district, through negotiations, it is not yet a state holiday. However, here is an excerpt from the Pew Charitable Trusts that you might find interesting:

A year after Juneteenth became a federal holiday commemorating the end of slavery in the United States, most states have yet to enact Juneteenth legal holidays.

When President Joe Biden signed the holiday into federal law June 17, 2021, only a handful of states had Juneteenth holidays with paid time off for state employees: Illinois, Louisiana, Maine, Massachusetts, New York, Oregon, Texas, Virginia and Washington.

At least another eight in the past year have elevated Juneteenth to paid state holidays: Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Georgia, Maryland, Nebraska, Ohio and South Dakota.

Long celebrated in the Black community as Freedom Day, Independence Day or Emancipation Day, Juneteenth is a time for get-togethers, picnics, concerts and reflection. Establishing federal and state legal Juneteenth holidays guarantees attention to painful United States history that is still unknown to many Americans, an annual assessment of racism in society, and celebrations of Black culture, history and achievement.

Enjoy this contemplative weekend! By the way, I have returned to campus since recovering from Covid, contracted from my granddaughter, and, in my humble example, our risk of contracting the disease is greater among family and friends than on campus, where our incidence rate is infinitesimally low. So stay safe!!

Best regards,

Bernadine

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