

EDI @ SOU NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2023



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EDI @ SOU

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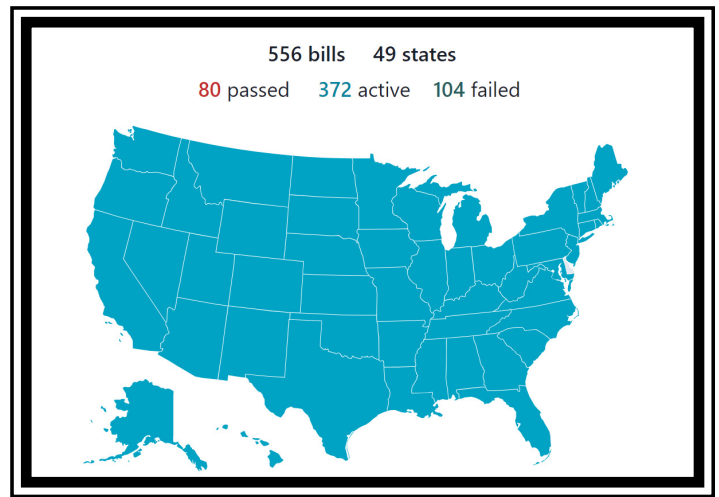
Contact us to share your
EDI-related news!

A DEDICATION

Within the first seventy days of 2023, state legislatures across the nation had introduced 450 bills intended to curtail the rights of the LGBTQIA+ community. From the floor of the White House Press Room, Press Secretary, Karine Jean Pierre, cited the first week of April as the worst when “the North Dakota senate passed 10 anti-trans bills.” (Karine Jean Pierre, White House Press Briefing, April 6, 2023.)

In tandem with the legislative activity, the American Library Association (ALA) took up the business of counting and evaluating the number of book content challenges and book bans received by community and public school libraries across the nation in 2022. The number of these challenges and bans nearly doubled those counted in the prior year. The majority of the objections were on the basis of race, sex, and sexuality and the majority of those related to sex were directed at the LGBTQIA+ community. Commenting on the challenges, the ALA’s Director of the Office Intellectual Freedom, Deborah Caldwell Stone stated, “Their aim is to suppress the voices of those traditionally excluded from our nation’s conversations, such as people in the LGBTQIA+ community or people of color.” (“American Library Association reports record number of demands to censor library books and materials in 2022.” ALA Press release, March 22, 2023.)

In the midst of the intellectual and legislative battles, violent acts and threats of violence against the LGBTQIA+ community steadily rose. Finally, a visitor to our own campus chose to exercise the cherished and protected right to free speech in a rant of homophobic and transphobic language ranging from the nonsensical to the abhorrent-- for what possible perceived purpose remains a mystery to most, if not all of us. Whether motivated by fear, a desire for political



Status of Bills Characterized as "Anti-trans" (as of June 7, 2023)

gain, both, and/or other reasons, these acts can and do have far reaching implications for the LGBTQIA+ community and its allies, friends, family, and colleagues—in short, for all of us and all of our communities.

The lived experiences of members of the LGBTQIA+ community are inclusive of the ways of being in the world found in any group made of shared experiences—and that intersectionality is part of what binds us. Each of us is a loved one with an interior and an exterior life and a drive to seek belonging in a community where we can live simultaneously, open truths from both places in safety. In support of the work that creates that experience for everyone, and a world that champions the authentic telling of our individual and collective histories, we dedicate this closing 2022-2023 EDI at SOU newsletter to National Pride Month, to the LGBTQIA+ community, and to the SOU students who give us reason for our Raider Pride every day. We see you.

What are you proud of today, Raider? We’ve got a few things we’d like to call out!



Courtesy of Shane Robinson

GROWING PRIDE & GAINING INCLUSION

In April the Office for Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion was honored and excited to support eight SOU students in their attendance at the annual Gender Advocacy and Inclusion Network Conference (GAIN). This year, GAIN held its annual gathering right here in our backyard at the Ashland Hills Hotel.

With opportunities to connect with leaders, participate in professional development, and prepare for leadership in Higher Education, the GAIN conference brought together students, scholars, educators, and administrators from across the nation. In conversation with the conference's Director of Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion, Rebecca Rodas, we learned that GAIN has redoubled its efforts to give space for the full expression of lived experience across gender as an expression of its mission to "facilitate meaningful connection, personal growth, professional advancement, and systemic change for all women, non-binary, and trans folks in higher education throughout the Pacific Northwest region."

SOU student Joceyln Gallegos Vargas attended and reflected on her experience. "The GAIN conference was an incredible experience as a first-time attendee. It really opens up the door for more questions and room for curiosity. My experience at the conference was amazing; because I got to learn and think from different perspectives -whether that was academically, career-wise, or socially. Additionally, I meet multiple people from within SOU as well as outside of the Rogue Valley. It is a unique experience, since I do not commonly get the opportunity to network with many people and GAIN facilitates that for all of its attendees and speakers. If given the opportunity, I would love to attend another conference organized by GAIN." (Vargas)

Our own EDI Staff and Community Liaison Patricia Syquia McCarthy joined our students and about her experience said, "it was a wonderful opportunity to participate in engaging workshops focused on broadening our own strategies for increasing gender inclusion and belonging here on campus."

We're already looking forward to next year. Consider joining some of our students in Seaside, OR for the 2024 GAIN conference. We have it on good authority that you'll be pleased and proud you made the commitment.

CIVIC PRIDE STARTS HERE

This year we are honored to welcome Councilwoman Gina DuQuenne as our featured speaker for our annual observation of Juneteenth on Wednesday, June 15th. Councilor DuQuenne is the first African American, out lesbian elected to serve on the Ashland City Council. She is a native of Los Angeles, who grew up with her mother and sisters in a house full of laughter. If you've ever had the opportunity to meet with her, we think you'll notice some of the glow that flows from a life consistently well-lived and well-loved. Come greet her and hear from her as our honored guest and speaker. We are so pleased that she agreed to join us in what she says is going to be a "prideful week starting with SOU."



Courtesy of Gina DuQuenne

one of our own faculty members, Precious Yamaguchi, PhD. Their service, their warm welcome to all, and their hope for our community are among the reasons our own Vice President for Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion made the decision to join the Southern Oregon University community. Councilor DuQuenne is the founder of the Southern Oregon Ashland Pride Festival, and in 2021 she was elected to the Ashland City Council.

Need a reason for Civic Pride? Start locally with Gina DuQuenne and join us as we welcome her on June 15th at 10:00 am in front of Churchill Hall.



Councilwoman DuQuenne is a member of Ashland's Social Justice and Racial Equity Commission, which incidentally also includes



COMMENCEMENT PRIDE CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES!

On June 16th at 4:30 PM in the Rogue River Room of the Stevenson Union, Southern Oregon University will hold its 20th Annual Lavender Graduation and Awards Ceremony.

We checked in with our Associate Dean of Students, janelle wilson for a word on the history of this university tradition:

“Our SOU tradition stems from the very first Lavender Graduation ceremony that took place at the University of Michigan in 1995 under Dr. Ronni Sanlo. Lavender Graduation honors students by bringing together members of their communities to celebrate the accomplishments of graduates, with particular honor and recognition for the ways in which sexuality, affectionality, gender, and various forms of queer advocacy have influenced their paths toward graduation. They are celebratory practices that are a symbol of hope and support.”

This now nationwide observation began with a single University of Michigan campus event that honored three graduates. Less than ten years later, forty-five college and university campuses across the nation were offering their own celebrations. The celebrations were precipitated by Dr. Sanlo’s own experience of exclusion from her children’s graduation ceremonies and her desire to ensure a positive experience for others.

“I created Lavender Graduation for two reasons: first, I wasn’t invited to my children’s graduation because of my sexual orientation. Second, LGBTQ students were telling me that their lives were miserable on campus and they couldn’t wait to get out. I wanted their last taste of their college experience to be positive, to remind them that they and their scholarship mattered to the academy.” (“A Conversation with Dr. Ronnie Sanlo.” Smitty Smith, Student Life Spectrum Center, University of Michigan, May 6, 2020.)

All members of the community are welcome to attend the SOU Lavender Graduation Ceremony. So, come show your SOU Pride and welcome our most recent Raiders to the alumni family! We have our calendars marked!

Did you know...



JUNE 2023

June 9 | 4:30 PM

Multicultural Coalition Celebration
Stevenson Union Courtyard
Southern Oregon University

June 15 | 10:00 AM

Juneteenth Celebratory Commemoration
& Flag Raising
Churchill Hall Lawn
Southern Oregon University

June 16 | 4:30 - 5:30 PM

20th Annual Lavender Graduation
& Award Celebration
Southern Oregon University
Rogue River Room

June 17 | 9:00 AM (8:45 AM Processional)

SOU Commencement Ceremony
Raider Stadium
Southern Oregon University

June 17 | 11:00 AM - 7:00 PM

Juneteenth 2023 (Hosted by BASE)
Pear Blossom Park
Medford, OR

June 24 | 12:00 PM - 6:00 PM

Medford Pride 2023
Pear Blossom Park
Medford, OR

STONEWALL

The Stonewall Uprising took place on June 28, 1969 when police raided the Stonewall Inn, a place for those identifying as part of the LGBTQIA+ communities connected. Although Stonewall was not the first time members of the LGBTQIA+ community fought against the legalized phobias that oppressed them, Stonewall is widely considered a major turning point in the history of their liberation. The Stonewall Inn, is now a national landmark, located in New York's Greenwich Village.

HUMAN RIGHTS

The Society for Human Rights is the oldest documented gay rights organization in the U.S. It's based in Chicago and was founded by Henry Gerber in 1924. In 2015, the Henry Gerber House was declared a National Historic Landmark.

PRIDE FLAG

The first Pride flag was designed by gay artist Gilbert Baker in 1978. The original flag was created with eight stripes, each color symbolizing a different concept. The flag first flew on Gay Pride Day in San Francisco on June 25, 1978.

HAVE AN EVENT OR STORY YOU'D
LIKE TO SHARE? PLEASE CONTACT US!
Email: EDI@sou.edu

EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES

Looking to learn more? Consider starting with these resources:

- [Gender Outlaws: On Men, Women, and the Rest of Us](#), by Kate Bornstein
- [Gender Outlaws: The Next Generation](#), by Kate Bornstein and S. Bergman
- [The Social Justice Advocate's Handbook: A guide to gender](#), by Sam Kellerman
- [Beyond the Gender Binary](#), by Alok Vaid-Menon
- [Transgender History](#), by Susan Stryker
- SAGE Encyclopedia of Transgender Studies through Hannon Library as an ebook
 - Begin with sections on Gender Studies and Multiple Identities
- [Open Educational Resource textbook Introduction to LGBTQ+ Studies: A Cross-Disciplinary Approach](#) by Deborah P. Amory; Sean G. Massey; Jennifer Miller; and Allison P. Brown
- [#TransJusticeSyllabus](#)

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