Celebrate Our Joy. Share in Our Pain.

Robert Jackson

*University of Maine Office for Diversity and Inclusion*

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Happy Tuesday, and Shanah Tovah to all who are celebrating Rosh Hashanah this week! May the new year bring you health, happiness, and community. Also, a big thank you to UMaine Hillel and the Wilson Center for hosting an Erev Rosh Hashanah dinner for those observing here on campus and in the greater Orono community!

I'd also like to take a moment to thank and honor the many union leaders and labor rights activists who not only paved the way for the long weekend we just enjoyed, but who fought for and secured many of the benefits so many of us take for granted, like the eight-hour work day, weekends, and a minimum wage. I highly recommend reading this article from The Conversation, which breaks down the history of Labor Day and it’s importance in American history.

I want to continue this week’s message by thanking the many of you who have reached out regarding last week’s reported assault on campus. We posted a letter I wrote from the heart and so many of you expressed your shared anger and frustration that we live in a time and place where this can happen. At the time I am writing this, that post has reached over 7,000 people and over 50 of you have shared it with your Facebook network. That’s AMAZING and I’m so grateful that our message has resonated so widely and with so many. Thank you. Your solidarity and support is appreciated beyond words.

I’m writing today to ask that you not let our pain, our trauma, and our anger be our most impactful message, on social media or elsewhere. Please don’t just show up when our struggle is being showcased and our safety is being challenged. Show up for us when we’re celebrating, when we are winning, and when we are joyous. We post frequently about the many exciting events, programs, and training opportunities we and our students work so very hard to organize, and those posts are often met with silence.

I’m challenging you all today to amplify the good things and the beauty of our communities, not just the violence, oppression, and hatred we meet with on a daily basis. Standing up and speaking out against prejudice and hate is only one piece of the puzzle. Join us when we are at our best and most vibrant. Latinx Heritage Month begins in a week. Join us for La Fiesta. October is LGBTQ+ History Month and Coming Out Week. Make sure you’ve completed the Foundational Safe Zone Training, which is now available online and at your own pace, wherever you may be learning from. Then join us on October 12th at 3:00 PM for ALLY 101, a new training we’ve developed specifically for folks who have completed a Safe Zone training and who want to discuss ways to be active, engaged, and consistent allies to marginalized folks in their communities. Engage with us just as enthusiastically when we are celebrating and joyful as you do when we are hurting and scared. THAT’S how we will change our community for the better.

Rob Jackson
Staff Associate for Diversity and Inclusion
September is National Recovery Month, and this year’s theme is ‘Recovery is for Everyone: Every Person, Every Family, Every Community.’ We are all called to end gatekeeping and welcome everyone to recovery by lowering barriers to recovery support, creating inclusive spaces and programs, and broadening our understanding of what recovery means for people with different experiences.

For more information on National Recovery Month, check out https://rm.facesandvoicesofrecovery.org.
SNACK & Chat

Thursday Sept. 16th at 2pm
Multicultural Student Center in Memorial Union 312

What does equitable reproductive justice look like?

Join us for a facilitated reflection and debrief on the recent restrictive reproductive health law in Texas. All are welcome. Light refreshments provided.

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"The University of Maine is an equal opportunity/affirmative action institution."
As the recent passage of a restrictive reproductive access bill in Texas has brought renewed attention and energy to the conversation of abortion access and which voices should be included in that conversation, we’d like to remind folks that not all people who menstruate are women and not all women menstruate. Please be thoughtful and intentional about your language when speaking about reproductive justice, access, and care. It is not solely a matter of women’s health.

Office for Diversity and Inclusion

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involving people who share intersectional identities and diverse experiences

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Access our student-worker application using the QR code below.

"THE UNIVERSITY OF MAINE IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY/AFFIRMATIVE ACTION INSTITUTION"
More than 400 million people in the world speak Spanish and 10% of them live in the United States, according to the Cervantes Institute.

But when do you classify a person as Hispanic or Latino? BBC journalist Angélica Casas explains the difference between the terms and why it matters.
SOLIDARITY MEETING

A SAFE PLACE TO FIND SOLIDARITY! A PLACE TO SHARE AND SUPPORT EACH OTHER AS STUDENTS OF COLOR AT UMAINE

MEETING WILL BE HELD BI-WEEKLY STARTING 9/15/21 AT 2PM SIGN UP VIA ATTACHED LINK

This meeting is offered online for the time being. Students must be physically in Maine to attend.

THE WILSON CENTER INVITES YOU TO OUR WEEKLY MEDITATION GROUP

Thursdays 6-7PM at The Wilson Center
67 College Ave. in Orono

please bring a mask
all are welcome, beginner and expert

RSVPs appreciated - zoom option available by request
WILSONCENTERORONO@GMAIL.COM
How much do you really know about the history of the word "Intersex"? Find out on this episode of InQueery hosted by them.'s own Maria Tridas.

InQueery is the series that takes a deeper look at the meaning, context, and history of LGBTQ+ vocabulary and culture. Powered by Google.

What Does Intersex Mean? | InQueery | them.