

June 16, 2021

Juneteenth, June 19, is a day that commemorates the end of slavery in the United States. **Frostburg State University and other University System of Maryland institutions will recognize the day on Friday, June 18, with administrative leave granted to eligible employees.**

Juneteenth has long been celebrated in the African American community. More recently, it has expanded beyond that community as a way to celebrate African American culture and its contribution to our society, as well as to reflect on the nation's history of slavery and its impact on enslaved people and their descendants, and on its long-term effect on our nation as a whole, up to and including today's social justice movement.

On Juneteenth, Saturday, June 19, the NAACP of Allegany County is hosting a [Juneteenth Celebration](#). The all-day event includes a virtual meditation, remembrance ceremony, March for Justice and a festival at Canal Place in Cumberland. FSU will have an information table at the event.

Juneteenth also provides the opportunity for the University to remember and acknowledge our own past. Last summer, we dedicated the Brownsville/Park Avenue Monument, located in our Upper Quad. It commemorates, Brownsville, the largely African American community that was displaced as the campus grew between the 1920s and 1960s. And our new residence hall, which opened last fall, was named Brownsville Hall in honor of that community.

Work also continues on the [University Council on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion](#)'s 10-point draft plan on diversity, equity and inclusion. The draft report will be sent to all three governance units, Faculty Senate, Staff Senate and SGA, to address and identify priorities this fall among the 40-plus recommended actions. The report, as well as the results of the council's Campus Climate Survey, will be posted for the campus community.

The University will continue to seek ways to build valuable dialogue about concerns and issues here and in the larger community. Juneteenth offers us all an opportunity to both contemplate and celebrate our history and our future.

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