



June 19, 2019

To the Campus Community:

155 years ago today, a federal order was read in Galveston Texas, declaring that all enslaved people in Texas were free. The news was delivered more than two years after President Abraham Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation went into effect on January 1, 1863. Today marks the first time that New York State and CUNY will observe Juneteenth as a state holiday.

In Governor Cuomo's Executive Order declaring this a holiday, it is noted that the day is a "reminder of the hardships and losses suffered by African Americans in their struggle to attain freedom, and we pay tribute to the memory of those who made the ultimate sacrifice in this quest; through their experiences and those of others who were successful in achieving victory, we find among the most poignant and valuable lessons of humankind that continue to resonate with people of all backgrounds."

I hope everyone takes time today to reflect on these lessons and commits to employ them in creating a better and more just world.

If you are interested in learning more about this emancipation celebration, please register for today's virtual presentation:

The Evolution of Juneteenth

Friday, June 19, 2020

11:45 AM - 12:45 PM

CC CLUE

Register to attend by going to <https://tinyurl.com/CSIJuneteenth>

Join public historian and CSI alum Debbie-Ann Paige for a discussion of the history and significance of Juneteenth. Juneteenth is the oldest nationally celebrated commemoration of the ending of slavery in the United States and the culmination of the many freedom celebrations created along the road to freedom. The discussion will be moderated by CSI's Vice-President for Student Affairs, Jennifer S. Borrero.

Sincerely,
William J. Fritz
President

