

Good morning,

In October, we celebrate several groups:

[LGBTQ+ History Month](#) – Honoring members of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, gender nonconforming and queer communities. October was chosen because several important dates fall within the month, including National Coming Out Day (Oct. 11), Spirit Day (Oct. 20) and Asexual Awareness Week (last week in Oct.).

[Italian-American Heritage Month](#) – First recognized by Congress in October 1989 to celebrate Italian-American culture and traditions. In 1880, Italians began migrating to the U.S. to flee rural poverty in Southern Italy and Sicily, and today, Americans of Italian descent are the nation's fifth largest ethnic group.

[Filipino-American History Month](#) – First recognized by Congress in 2009, the monthlong celebration commemorates the Filipino experience throughout American history stretching as far back as 1587. Today, Filipino Americans make up the second-largest Asian American ethnic group in the U.S.

[Polish American Heritage Month](#) – While August was first deemed Polish-American month in 1981, the month of recognition was changed to October to commemorate the first Polish settlers, as well as the deaths of military leaders who fought in the American Revolution.

Homecoming. Please partake in the many events that will be happening this weekend as we welcome back FSU alums to campus. It will be the first opportunity for them to tour the Multicultural Center and the Education and Health Sciences Center. The tragedy at Morgan State occupied much of my thinking yesterday. I am thankful that no one lost a life in the incident; but share the sorrow for those injured and the impact on the campus community. Please be safe and watchful this weekend during our Homecoming celebration.

FSU Foundation. Members of the FSU Foundation Board of Directors will be meeting this week and attending FSU Homecoming activities. Thank you to these volunteers who continue to help us exceed our financial goals to support our mission and student success.

Retiree Luncheon. Our Homecoming events kick off with our yearly luncheon honoring FSU retirees, many of whom are also alums. It is a great event having them on campus and hearing about their time at FSU and the impact they have had.

Staff and Faculty Senates. Thank you to both senates for some very good discussions yesterday on a wide range of topics including the budget. Thanks to the faculty who stayed around after the senate meeting to talk about classroom challenges. I continue to believe that the post-pandemic environment has created or accelerated the pace of challenges for higher education nationally. We are not immune from these challenges. However, we have the capacity and ability to address these challenges. I encourage the campus community to participate in the open sessions this month focusing on mission & vision, strategic enrollment, and campus culture. We need your input. The results of these sessions will be shared with the campus on the intranet as we have done in the past. Please complete the survey on our mission [here](#) if you have not done so already.

Have a safe and fun weekend. Go Bobcats!