

# Belonging

the newsletter from the *FIRST* NC ED&I Team – October 2023

**Equity** – Treating everyone fairly, having equal opportunities and removing barriers.

**Diversity** – The way we are all different.

**Inclusion** – Creating space for everyone where differences are embraced.

## ***LGBT History Month – 31 Days, 31 Icons.***

**How It Works** - LGBT History Month celebrates the achievements of 31 lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender Icons. Each day in October, a new LGBT Icon is featured with a video, bio, bibliography, downloadable images, and other resources.

**Background** - In 1994, Rodney Wilson, a Missouri high school teacher, believed a month should be dedicated to the celebration and teaching of gay and lesbian history, and gathered other teachers and community leaders. They selected October because public schools are in session and existing traditions, such as Coming Out Day (October 11), occur that month.

Gay and Lesbian History Month was endorsed by GLAAD, the Human Rights Campaign, the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, the National Education Association, and other national organizations. In 2006 Equality Forum assumed responsibility for providing content, promotion, and resources for LGBT History Month.

**Celebrate Our Heritage** - The LGBT community is the only community worldwide that is not taught its history at home, in public schools or in religious institutions. LGBT History Month provides **role models**, builds **community**, and makes the civil rights statement about our **extraordinary national and international contributions**.

What to know more, check out this link - <https://lgbthistorymonth.com/>

Do you have tips for other teams on how to include people and help them feel they belong?

Send them to [FIRSTNC-EDI@googlegroups.com](mailto:FIRSTNC-EDI@googlegroups.com) or use this [GOOGLE FORM](#) and we'll include them in upcoming newsletters.

## **From *FIRST*: Just in case you missed it! - Charge Up Your Community with Impactful Outreach**

In this guest blog from *FIRST* Robotics Competition Team 1511 "Rolling Thunder," you'll find a guide that outlines how to connect with your community through impactful outreach that will in turn help sustain your team. Topics include:

- Student Engagement is Key to Successful Outreach Initiatives
- Foster an Environment that Values Outreach
- Form Community Partnerships
- Sustaining Outreach Events
- Improving Outreach Events

Read more - <https://community.firstinspires.org/guest-blog-charge-up-your-community-with-impactful-outreach>

## October Events:

Global Diversity Awareness Month, a month to celebrate and increase awareness about the diversity of cultures and ethnicities as well as the positive impact diversity can have on society.

LGBTQ+ History Month is a US observance that started in 1994 to recognize lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer history and the history of the gay rights movement.

National Disability Employment Awareness Month was launched in 1945 when Congress declared the first week in October as "National Employ the Physically Handicapped Week." In 1998, the week was extended to a month and renamed. The annual event draws attention to employment barriers that still need to be addressed.

**October 4:** St. Francis Day is a feast day for St. Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of animals and the environment. It's celebrated by many Catholic denominations.

**October 6 (sundown) to October 8 (sundown):** Shemini Atzeret is a Jewish holiday also known as The Eighth (Day) of Assembly.

**October 7 (sundown) to October 8 (sundown):** Simchat Torah is a Jewish holiday that marks the end of the weekly readings of the Torah.

**October 9:** For Canadian Thanksgiving people give thanks for a good harvest & other fortunes in the past year.

**October 10:** World Mental Health Day was first celebrated in 1993 to increase public awareness about the importance of mental health, mental health services, and mental health workers worldwide.

**October 11:** National Coming Out Day is recognized in the United States to celebrate those who come out as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or queer.

**October 15 to October 24:** Navratri is the nine-day Hindu festival celebrating the triumph of good over evil.

**October 16 (sundown to sundown):** Birth of Báb is a Bahá'í holiday celebrating the birth of the prophet Báb.

**October 19:** International Pronouns Day seeks to make respecting, sharing, and educating about personal pronouns commonplace. Each year it is held on the third Wednesday of October.

**October 20:** Sikh Holy Day is the day Sikhs celebrate Sri Guru Granth Sahib, their spiritual guide.

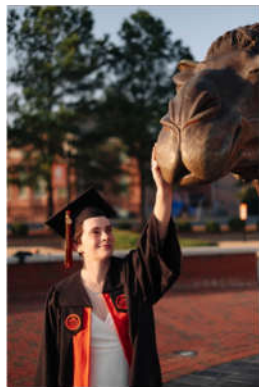
**October 24 (sundown) to October 25 (sundown):** Yom Kippur is the holiest day on the Jewish calendar. This day of atonement is marked by fasting and ceremonial repentance.

**October 26 to October 27:** Mawlid Al-Nabi is the observance of the birthday of the prophet Muhammad. It's celebrated during the month of Rabiulawal, the third month of the Muslim calendar.

**October 31:** All Hallows' Eve, or Halloween, is a celebration observed in a number of countries on the eve of the Western Christian feast of All Hallows' Day. Halloween celebration origins are traced back to Samhain.

**October 31 (sunset) to November 1 (sunset):** Samhain is a Gaelic and Wiccan festival marking the beginning of winter.

## Inspiration & Recognition Spotlight: *Brittany T. (she/they)*



Freshman year of high school I joined FRC Team Girls on Fire 5679. I stayed on this team for all four years and learned so much. I was a shy person until people got to know me and this team definitely helped boost my confidence. A favorite memory of mine was winning the State Championship in 2016 and traveling to St. Louis for the World Championship. By the time we got to St. Louis, I was amazed we were in an auditorium with so many teams from across the world. My teammates drove the robot while I met with other teams wanting to learn more about how they got here too.

The most useful thing I learned from FIRST Robotics is teamwork, leadership and confidence. I used all three of these in college and now I'm growing them further at work. In 2018 I graduated from Davie County Early College and began studying Mechanical Engineering (graphic design minor) at Campbell University. Campbell's engineering program is centered around teamwork and building confidence in your best self as an engineer. In 2022, I graduated college as a First Generation student and started my job as an Associate Process Engineer at Pfizer. I'm now a bit over a year into my job and I use team working skills daily, I've grown more confident in my work and helping others and I'm starting to lead more projects.

Thank you Girls on Fire 5679 (mentors and students), my parents, Campbell's engineering program and my friends for helping me reach this point in my life!

## Equity, Diversity, & Inclusion Training: *I Can Be Inclusive Too* e-Course

These interactive Inclusion tools will help you feel confident in understanding inclusion, creating accommodations, supporting and responding positively to behavior challenges and creating supportive environments.

- [Part 3 - Connecting for Inclusion Pt 1](#)

The *FIRST* NC ED&I Team: Contact us at: [FIRSTNC-EDI@googlegroups.com](mailto:FIRSTNC-EDI@googlegroups.com)

We are a team of coaches/mentors who want to help create a community and culture of people who embrace the values of equity, diversity, and inclusion, who want to develop themselves, and who understand that growth and diversity of all types lead to team excellence.

*Anisha Patel - The Pitt Pirates 2642*  
*Dave Lashley (he/him) - Team SPORK 3196*

*Linda Whipker (she/her) - Team PyroTech 3459*  
*Melissa "Bee" Bube (they/she) - Girls on Fire 5679*

**All Editions are Available Online at:** <https://www.firstnorthcarolina.org/belonging-newsletter>