

Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Monthly Message: March 2025

March is Women's History Month and a time to honor women's contributions to culture, history, the economy and science. Like all commemorative months, the name is quite misleading, as we're very much still here! Started in 1980, the US Government has recognized Women's History Week, and then Month, and the vital role of women in American Society. Additionally, March 8th is International Women's Day, a date recognized around the world as continuing the fight for equality and a world free of bias and discrimination. This year's theme is "[Accelerate Action](#)," and recognizes that it will take five more generations until we reach gender parity, according to the World Economic Forum.

A reminder to everyone that we are currently in Ramadan, which began last Friday at sundown and runs through sundown on March 29th, unless changes are made regarding daylight savings. During this time, our Muslim students and colleagues who are celebrating Ramadan will fast for 16+ hours, from sun up to sun down, from all food and water to practice spiritual discipline and to express gratefulness. It is also a time of charity and practicing patience and kindness. People observing Ramadan break their fast in a meal called "iftar," a time when traditionally family and friends come together to share a meal.

Please be mindful that sleep hours and caloric intake change greatly during this time, and your understanding is appreciated. In addition, we have a quiet room on campus, right across from Student Life. For students looking for a place to pray, reflect, or meditate, this quiet room can be opened either by Student Life or myself.

The LSC Council on Diversity, Equity & Inclusion is excited to launch the **Narratives for Change** media club. Think 'book club' but not just books—podcasts, documentaries, movies, art, etc. Each month we'll share the topic of the month and where to access the media. At the end of the month, there will be a Zoom meet-up to discuss the media. If you are unable to join the Zoom session, we'll send some reflection questions your way. The moderator will change each month and we welcome suggestions for different topics!

Our **March Narratives for Change media club topic is *Wiser Than Me***, a podcast hosted by actor Julia Louis-Dreyfus (of *Seinfeld* and *Veep* fame). She interviews women who are mostly in their 70-90s, women who have amazing lived experiences: actors, singers, writers, activities, scientists, and more.

Your task: Listen to two episodes and be ready to reflect! The first episode sets the tone for the series with actor and activist Jane Fonda and the episode with Labor activist Delores Huerta. As you listen, think about how women's experiences are unique and how age gives women new perspectives and wisdom. In each podcast, there is always an introduction by Julia at the start and an ending where Julie calls and talks to her own mother. These are interesting but people can skip over these if they want.

Here are online links here or get the episodes from your favorite podcast app.

[Julia Gets Wise with Jane Fonda](#)

[Julia Gets Wise with Dolores Huerta](#)

Ready to sign up? [Link is here](#). Listen to the podcasts and join us for a discussion about them on Thursday, March 27th from noon to 1 p.m. This month's session will be hosted by Amy Jo Swing, CFI and English Faculty.

Upcoming events:

- **Draw a Larger Circle: Expanding Inclusion in the Workplace Summit:** Next Thursday, March 13th from 9-3pm, LSC, in partnership with the Duluth Chamber and the College of St. Scholastica, is proud to present the first annual Equity & Inclusion Summit focused on enhancing inclusion in both the workplace and the greater Duluth community. The central theme of this summit will be learning what it means to draw a larger circle. Our speakers will task attendees to look internally at how you can draw a larger circle in your life—both personally and professionally.

2025 Summit Agenda

8:30-9:00 Registration

Breakfast & Coffee, Open Networking

9:00 Self-Cultural Awareness As a Tool for Effective Change

Jesse Ross (he/him), Coach, Speaker, Consultant

10:00 Responsibility and Empowerment: Unlocking the Power of Your Own Protagonism

Claire Bransky (they/them), Claire Bransky Facilitation

11:00 Knowing Your Neighbors: A Global Perspectives Panel

Moderated by Dr. Marsha Lue (she/her), City of Duluth Human Rights & Equity Officer

Featured Panelists:

Halima (she/her), Mila Mostova (she/her), Azrin Awal (she/they) & Eduardo Sandoval Luna (he/him)

12:00-1:30 Lunch + Activity: The Urgency of Awareness

Jaton White (she/her), Northside Achievement Zone

1:30 Allyship in Action: Amplify, Advocate & Awkwardness

Cam Kruger (he/him) & Raven Kruger (fae/faer, it/its), The Transgenda Podcast

2:15 The Next Right Thing:

Moving Forward from Overwhelm to Action

Sara Cole (she/her), Duluth Area Family YMCA



The Summit will take place at The College of St. Scholastica in the Benedictine Commons.

Registration information can be found [here](#). Funds are available to cover the cost of attendance—please let me know ASAP if you're interested in attending! This is over LSC's Spring Break, so hopefully there are less conflicts for folks wanting to attend!

- **LSC Cultural Fair:** Join us March 25th from 11:30-1 in the CEI (M125) for the 3rd Annual LSC Cultural Fair featuring students and employees alike! If you're interested in hosting a table, please let Sarah Lyons know.

- **Bite-sized Equity is back!** Join us (nearly) for 30 minutes of building knowledge around topics like biases, authentic apologies, having difficult conversations & more! Sessions will be held from 8-8:30 on Wednesday mornings on Zoom. Session dates are March 19, 26, April 9, 16, 23 and 30, and May 7. If you would like me to share calendar invites, just ask. [This is the Zoom link for all sessions!](#)

Current LSC Pantry Needs:

- **Pantry updates & needs:** Size 4 & 5 diapers, rice, canned beans, canned vegetables, dental floss, shampoo