

Dear LSC Campus Community:

October brings us so many wonderful things: cool nights, warm days with trees turning yellow and rusty red, and the smell of fall in the air. The semester is about half-way finished and our thoughts turn to the beginning of the winter holiday season. Locally, we celebrate Student Success Day on October 2nd and a couple of student break days for Education Minnesota (October 17th and 18th).

October is LGBTQ History Month (not to be confused with June PRIDE Month), with many activities planned for our campus and local communities. LGBTQ History Month is in October to coincide with National Coming Out Day on October 11th and to commemorate the first and second marches on Washington in 1979 and 1987 for LGBTQ rights. October 11th is still recognized as Columbus Day and it is also the federally recognized Indigenous People's Day, declared by President Biden on October 8, 2021:

“Since time immemorial, American Indians, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians have built vibrant and diverse cultures — safeguarding land, language, spirit, knowledge, and tradition across the generations. On Indigenous Peoples’ Day, our Nation celebrates the invaluable contributions and resilience of Indigenous peoples, recognizes their inherent sovereignty, and commits to honoring the Federal Government’s trust and treaty obligations to Tribal Nations” (Biden Proclamation 2021).

October is also National Arts and Humanities Month so see a play, visit an art museum, attend a concert! Bat Week (October 24-31) could be wonderful and fun, since it includes Halloween, though I do not think Duluth offers much in the way of bat-specific programming. But you never know.

Other special days during October include: World Animal Day on October 3, World Mental Health Day October on 10, and (suddenly a new favorite of mine) International Day of Older Americans on October 1.

Be well, take some time to walk in the woods, enjoy the weather, and celebrate October in the northland.

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