

SOCIAL JUSTICE INITIATIVES AND IDENTITY PROGRAMS

OFFICE OF SOCIAL
JUSTICE INITIATIVES
AND IDENTITY
PROGRAMS

Monthly Newsletter

SJI Fun Fact:



The Civil Rights Act of 1964 outlawed discrimination based on race, sex, religion, or national origin. The end to racial discrimination presented the opportunity for a fair and equal society. This continues to present itself as a social justice issue in present day society. Within our current political climate the Civil Rights Act of 1964 can be a constant reminder of the need to protect the human rights of all individuals. The fight against injustices and inequalities is far from over and must be continued from up close and from afar as well as pursued in every generation to come.

WHAT HAPPENED IN THE LAST MONTH?

Marvelous March: WHM

Last month, we celebrated the accomplishments of all those who identify as womxn during Womxn's History Month.

Some of the events we hosted this past month include:

- **Soul Sistah Circle Series in Granite Pass 101 @ 3:30 pm**
- **BSRC Barbershop @ GRAN 101**
- **Drag Show Pride Center**
- **Holi APIRC**

However, rest assured, we do not stop there! SJIIP is also planning a plethora of activities for April and May! This includes (but is not limited to):

- BSRC Barbershop @ GRAN 101
 - Every Thursday until April 24th
- Soul Sistah Circle Series in Granite Pass 101 @ 3:30 pm
 - Every Wednesday
- Plant it Forward in MCC KL 169
 - Tuesday, April 22nd, 1:30-4:00pm
- Cultural Food Festival in Pavilion Lawn
 - Friday, April 25, 12:00-3:00 pm
- Social Justice Fair in Pavilion Lawn
 - Monday, April 28, 12:00-3:00 pm
- Cultural Celebrations

Holidays and Celebrations in April and May

APRIL 1ST

April Fool's Day

An annual custom on the 1st of April consisting of practical jokes and hoaxes.

APRIL 2ND

International Autism Acceptance Day

This day promotes understanding, acceptance, and inclusion of individuals on the autism spectrum, focusing on recognizing their unique strengths and contributions.

APRIL 9TH

International Day of Pink

This day stands against bullying, homophobia, transphobia, and all forms of discrimination, with communities worldwide encouraged to wear pink in solidarity. It's a call for inclusivity and respect, fostering awareness and support for a safer, more accepting world.

APRIL 22ND

Earth Day

Earth Day raises global awareness about environmental protection, inspiring action to combat climate change, reduce pollution, and promote sustainability.

APRIL 24TH

Armenian Genocide Remembrance Day

This day commemorates the lives lost during the Armenian Genocide, honoring the heritage and resilience of Armenian communities worldwide.



MAY 1ST

First day of

Asian American and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander Heritage Month

This month is a time to honor the diverse histories and vast pan-ethnic diaspora of people from East, South, and Southeast Asia as well as the Pacific Islands of Melanesia, Micronesia, and Polynesia.

MAY 5TH

Cinco de Mayo



Mexican holiday commemorating the Mexican Army's 1862 victory over France at the Battle of Puebla during the Franco-Mexican War (1861–1867).

MAY 10TH

Military Spouse Appreciation Day

This day recognizes and honors the support and sacrifices of military spouses in the US.

MAY 17TH

International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia, and Biphobia

A global celebration of sexual orientation and gender diversities.

MAY 19TH

Malcolm X Day

A day in the US commemorating the civil rights leader.



MAY 21ST

World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development

Upcoming Events!

Social Justice Fair

- The Office of Social Justice Initiatives and Identity Programs will be hosting our very first Social Justice Fair that is taking place at the **Pavilion Lawn on April 28th from 12pm - 3pm**. There will be food, games, and prizes, so bring your friends and come out for a good time! Hope to See you there!!



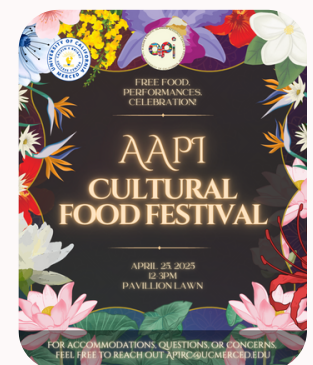
Self Care

- The LGBTQIA+ Pride Center will be hosting a Self Care event in collaboration with CAPS. We understand school can be stressful, stop by next **Tuesday April 29th, from 1:30-4:00pm at the Pride Center KL 159** and use this time to relax and practice some self care with us!!



API Food Festival

- The Asian and Pacific Islander Resource Center in collaboration with the Bright Success Center are hosting the annual Asian American and Pacific Islander Cultural Food Festival taking place at the **Pavilion Lawn on April 25 from 12 - 3pm**. Come out and enjoy some free food and performances!



EVENT RECAP

MLK Excursion



Our Washington

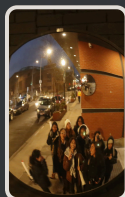


D.C. Trip



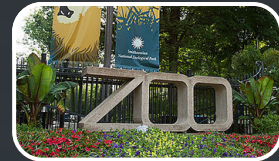
JAN. 20TH

Reginald F. Lewis Museum of Maryland
African American History & Culture
Philly Gayborhood LGBTQ History Tour



JAN. 18TH

MLK Peace Walk & Parade
Howard University



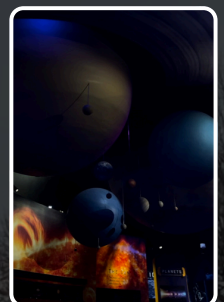
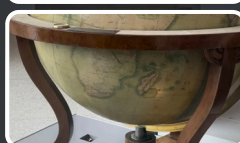
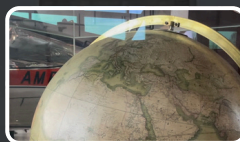
JAN. 19TH

Smithsonian National Zoo
Holocaust Memorial
National Museum of African-American History & Culture
National Museum of Asian Art



JAN. 21ST

National Air & Space Museum
UCDC Visit
Potomac Mills at Simon Center
Healthy Fun One Adventure Park



EVENT RECAP

SJ Retreat



Opportunities Fellowship Programs

Monarch Center



OPPORTUNITIES Fellowship Program

Who Can Apply :

- Full-time undergraduate students at UC Merced

Benefits :

- Gain practical experience in your field of interest
- Network with industry professionals
- Develop and refine skills
- Receive mentorship from experienced staff/faculty

About the program:

Faculty, departments, and units are expected to design and mentor the projects! OFP Scholars are expected to commit 8–10 hours/week during the 2025–2026 academic year. Eligible undergraduates may receive a fellowship through Financial Aid.

Requirements:

- Demonstrate financial need to qualify for the fellowship.
- Attend OFP Meet & Greet
- Dedicate 8–10 hours per week to their project.
- Enroll in a required 1-unit course.
- Attend the OFP showcase in late April.
- No work authorization required.
- Provide timely responses to all communications from the OFP team

Priority Deadline:
August 11th, 11:59 PM

Secondary Deadline:
August 25th, 11:59 PM

Contact Victoria Garcia Ordaz: vordazgarciasucmerced.edu
Course-related inquiries: Dr. Maria Ramirez Loyola: mramirezloyolasucmerced.edu

Want your event to be featured in our Newsletter?

Contact us at socialjustice@ucmerced.edu

➤ Send in your organization's upcoming event so we can promote it in our next edition!

Cultural Graduations Sign-Ups



UC MERCED

**CULTURAL
CELEBRATIONS**

**Deadline Extended!
Contact SJI for more information**



Lavender Celebration — May 2
Asian & Pacific Islander Celebration — May 4
Afropolitan Celebration — May 10
Native American & Indigenous Celebration — May 11
Latinx Celebration — May 18

 **REGISTER HERE!**

For more information, contact socialjustice@ucmerced.edu
or visit bit.ly/ucm-cc-2025

FUNNY MOMENTS FROM SJI Scholar Coordinators

This past Friday as Scholar Coordinators were trying on some new SJI Merch in preparation for Bobcat Day, some of the Scholar Coordinators invented some new creative ways of how to wear our new SJI visors and trucker hats!



Senior Spotlights!!

Congratulations on graduating!



Ediomo Umanah



Karla Destephen



Goodness Emedom



Aneesa Reynolds



Sahithi Konduru



Jay Retuta



Alexandra Moore

OUR STAFF:

Every center and the main office is supported by Scholar Coordinators, who are fellow students tasked with coming up with some of the events, overseeing over the centers, interacting with other students, staff, or faculty, and providing support. There are also Pro-Staff, which are staff members who oversee the whole Department, listed below:



Camerina Morales
(she/they)
Director of SJIIP



Destany Charles
(she/her(s))
Assistant Director of SJIIP



Lizbeth Castro
(she/her(s))
SJIIP Coordinator

HOW TO STAY CONNECTED

One of the easiest ways to stay informed and connected to our department, the resources we provide, and keep up-to-date with upcoming events is to follow our social media. We have several different, very active, instagrams, ranging from one for the main department to the individual ones meant for the designated centers.

Visit our center Instagrams!!

- [@ucmsocialjustice](#)
- [@ucmapirc](#)
- [@bsrc.ucm](#)
- [@ucmpride](#)
- [@ucmmulticulturalcenter](#)
- [@gcrc.ucm](#)

The school webpages list out more resources, can redirect you to all the centers, provides information about past events and reporting procedures, and provide additional support. It is a valuable resource if you are looking for any other details or help.

@ucmsocialjustice | socialjustice@ucmerced.edu | (209) 228-0081

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