

Dear LSC Campus Community:

As the old song said, June is busting out all over in so many ways. The brief acknowledgements below give us a sense of the rich diversity and breadth of the many themes and milestones that June brings. As in every month, Lake Superior College proudly celebrates special June days, special themes for the month, and the start of the last of the long summer days leading up to Summer Solstice and the full circle of the beginning of fall.

June is LGBTQAI+ Pride Month, though here in Duluth we celebrate in August. Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer + Pride Month is a month-long celebration dedicated to recognizing the influence that LGBTQAI+ individuals have on our communities, culture and history: "Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer (LGBTQ) Pride Month is currently celebrated each year in the month of June to honor the 1969 Stonewall Uprising in Manhattan. The Stonewall Uprising was a tipping point for the Gay Liberation Movement in the United States. In the United States the last Sunday in June was initially celebrated as "Gay Pride Day," but the actual day was flexible. In major cities across the nation the "day" soon grew to encompass a month-long series of events. Today, celebrations include pride parades, picnics, parties, workshops, symposia and concerts, and LGBTQ Pride Month events attract millions of participants around the world."*

June is also Immigration Heritage Month, Men's Health Month, Caribbean-American Heritage Month, and National PTSD Awareness Month.

June 2025 marks the beginning of the Islamic New Year: Eid al-Adha, starting at sundown on June 17, is a Muslim festival in remembrance of the faith of the Prophet Ibrahim. Ibrahim was prepared to sacrifice his son, but Allah provided a lamb instead. "Eid al-Adha is the second of the two main festivals in Islam alongside Eid al-Fitr. It falls on the 10th of Dhu al-Hijja, the twelfth and final month of the Islamic calendar. Celebrations and observances are generally carried forward to the three following days, known as the Tashreeq days."**

A major celebration day in June is June 19th or Juneteenth, celebrating the day in 1865 when federal troops arrived in Texas two years after emancipation to end slavery that had persisted there. Those of us who have the privilege of years of friendship with Dr. Toyia Younger (formerly employed in the Minnesota State system office), know that Opal Lee, Toyia's cousin, is the "grandmother" of making Juneteenth a national holiday. Toyia wrote about this 2021 milestone and the history of Ms. Lee's work to make Juneteenth possible. A wonderful tribute worth reading.***

June also brings us Father's Day (June 19), the Summer Solstice (June 26), and Shavuot (evening of Sunday June 1-Tuesday June 3, 2025): "Shavuot, or Shvues, is a Jewish holiday, one of the biblically ordained Three Pilgrimage Festivals. It occurs on the sixth day of the Hebrew month of

Sivan; in the 21st century, it may fall anywhere between May 15 and June 14 on the Gregorian calendar.” ****

I begin June with a lot of nostalgia and a bittersweet feeling. This is my last month at LSC and my career in higher education is coming to a close. I leave Duluth to return to my roots in the Twin Cities, and will revel in more time to be with family, friends, and art groups. I go back physically alone yet I am accompanied by the spirit of my wife and the well wishes of so many friends here in the North Country. With this in mind, I close this campus message with a poem by Robert Burns.

I chose this poem as a nod to my Scottish heritage. As a woman of Celtic heritage, I am connected to the mysteries of life and death on an almost cellular level (not through my phone, but through bone and blood and the sea). This poem for me sums up my feelings for all of you and for those I love: collectively, you are “my bonnie lass” and I will surely be visiting with you again “tho’ it were ten thousand mile.”

A Red, Red Rose

O my Luve's like a red, red rose
That's newly sprung in June;
O my Luve's like the melodie
That's sweetly play'd in tune.

As fair art thou, my bonnie lass,
So deep in luve am I:
And I will luve thee still, my dear,
Till a' the seas gang dry:

Till a' the seas gang dry, my dear,
And the rocks melt wi' the sun:
I will luve thee still, my dear,
While the sands o' life shall run.

And fare thee well, my only Luve
And fare thee well, a while!
And I will come again, my Luve,
Tho' it were ten thousand mile.

-Robert Burns*****

Be well, stay safe, keep in touch. Fare thee well.

Patricia L. Rogers Ph.D.
President, Lake Superior College

*Read more at: <https://www.loc.gov/lgbt-pride-month/about/>

**See https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eid_al-Adha

***See Toyia's 2021 article about Opal Lee here:

<https://www.desmoinesregister.com/story/opinion/columnists/iowa-view/2021/06/17/juneteenth-holiday-cousin-opal-grandmother-determination-pays-off/7703501002/> And a history of Juneteenth can be found here: <https://nmaahc.si.edu/explore/stories/historical-legacy-juneteenth>

****Learn more about Shavuot at: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shavuot>

*****Poem available at: <https://www.poemhunter.com/poem/a-red-red-rose/>