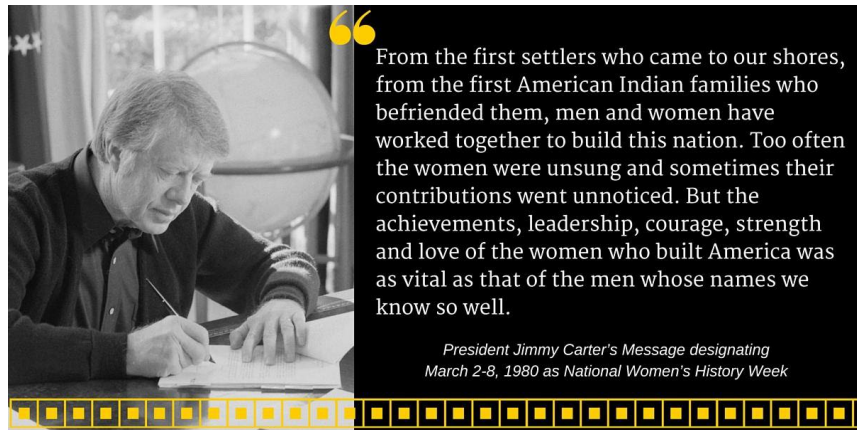


Dear LSC Campus Community:

March is the month when we transition into spring, from the harsh cold and bluster of winter. I hold that transition particularly dear this year as the promise of new life from dead leaves and frozen soil gives me an image of hope and a soft happiness. I can, at least for a time, ignore the unsettling and swirling challenges from these past few weeks and focus on the delicate growth of spring bloodroot and violets. I can observe small insects beginning to venture out from hiding places to continue their short lives in warmth and pale green. I can smile at children playing in the remaining patches of snow and mud puddles. I also expect to see blustering winter keep trying to hold on, driving the insects, flowers, and children back to warm safety. March weather, in like a lion and out like a lamb, holds all of the extremes.

March is Women's History Month, a time to celebrate the contributions of women in the arts, sciences, politics, technology, and every aspect of daily life. The theme for Women's History Month this year is "Moving Forward Together! Women Educating and Inspiring Generations."

Women's History Month began as a week of celebration in 1978 in Sonoma County California. By 1980, Women's History Week received national recognition when then President Jimmy Carter signed a Presidential Proclamation declaring the week of March 8th as National Women's History Week.



From the first settlers who came to our shores, from the first American Indian families who befriended them, men and women have worked together to build this nation. Too often the women were unsung and sometimes their contributions went unnoticed. But the achievements, leadership, courage, strength and love of the women who built America was as vital as that of the men whose names we know so well.

*President Jimmy Carter's Message designating
March 2-8, 1980 as National Women's History Week*

I am also reminded that March 1st is the beginning of Ramadan and will run until 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. Thanks, Sarah Lyons.

March also has Pi Day (March 14), Read Across America Day (March 2, which is also Dr. Seuss's birthday), and St. Patrick's Day (March 17th).

And amidst all of these fun dates, and in keeping with March's changeable weather and unpredictable temper, the Ides of March (March 15th) reminds us of the doom and even violence of March associated with the assassination of Julius Caesar in 44BCE. "Beware the Ides of March" (Soothsayer Act 1, Scene 2 The Tragedy of Julius Caesar – W. Shakespeare). Since the Ides of March falls on a Saturday this year, we might all just stay home as the soothsayer recommended!

Image and more information on how Women's History Week became Women's History Month available at: <https://www.womenshistory.org/womens-history/womens-history-month>

Be well, enjoy the spring sunshine, and be kind to each other.

Patricia L. Rogers, Ph.D.
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