Juneteenth marks the day that thousands of slaves in Galveston, Texas, finally received news of their freedom on June 19, 1865—2.5 years after President Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation became official. Texas was the first state to make Juneteenth an official state holiday in 1980. Although it is not a national holiday, it is official in 48 states.

Greek Life Organizations Raise $2.5K for Floyd Family

In the days after George Floyd’s death, Isabel Murphy ’22, President of Zeta Chi Omega, was inspired to mobilize the Austin College Greek organizations to respond quickly. “On social media I came across a tweet that said something along the lines of, ‘Where are sororities now when we need them to fundraise/get involved?’ I knew Zeta needed to work to be a part of the solution, not contribute to the problem. This is no time to be silent. It is our responsibility as a sorority and college campus to demonstrate unity and to support one another. One of the best things about Greek life at Austin College is how connected we are to each other and how quick we are to help.”

“Our students are very responsive,” said Michael Deen, Dean of Student Life. “When something happens, and they see it as wrong—they are quick to ask, ‘what can we do to help?’ They see an issue and they respond.”

Murphy contacted leaders from Kappa Gamma Chi and Alpha Delta Chi, who together chose to support the George Floyd Memorial Fund with a weeklong, social-media-driven fundraiser. The groups raised $2,524.91 with contributions from members and alumni of Zeta Chi Omega, Kappa Gamma Chi, Sigma Phi Chi, Alpha Delta Chi, Zeta Chi Beta, Gamma Gamma Gamma, Theta Sigma Chi, and Phi Kappa Omega.

Murphy says the most important thing Greek life organizations can do is continue to advocate, and be consistent and persistent.

Austin College Announces New Position

Traci Howard Moore joins Austin College as Director of Student Success and Transition, working to provide leadership for re-enrollment and persistence for Austin College students. While working closely with students, she joins the efforts of the student care team, including faculty mentors; Student Life, Financial Aid, and Athletics staffs; and senior leadership in Academic Affairs, Business Affairs, and Student Affairs.

Moore has worked most recently in higher education at Collin College, where she served as College and Career Counselor, and at Nebraska Wesleyan University, where she was Admission Counselor, Minority Advisor, and Multicultural Student Advisor. Moore has a bachelor's degree in Social Work from the University of Nebraska in Omaha and a master's degree in Educational Leadership, with an emphasis in Student Affairs from San Diego State University.
In his June 9, 2020, letter to the Austin College community, President Steven O'Day reaffirmed Austin College’s commitment to advancing the cause of anti-racism and dismantling systems of oppression. He wrote, “With this moment of opportunity before us, I have charged the President’s Committee on Inclusion and Diversity to gather ideas from all members of the Austin College community on actionable steps to help to make justice and opportunity a reality for all—here and everywhere.” This call to action requires suggestions that are workable and effective.

The Committee on Inclusion and Diversity invites members of the Austin College community to share ideas about changes in organizational structure, policy, and/or practices that may reduce inequities and promote inclusion. The online input form is open through August 1.

To complete the survey, please click this link...

President’s Committee on Inclusion and Diversity

Co-Chairs
Lisa M. Brown, Professor of Psychology, Dean of Social Sciences
John Williams ’84, Chaplain, Director of Church Relations

Committee Members
Aldo Billingslea ’87, Professor at University of Santa Clara, College of Arts and Sciences
Tom Blake, Assistant Professor of English
Anika Chand ’23
Jacqui Cooper ’73, Retired Senior Programs and Policy Officer, U.S. Government
Erin Copple Smith, Associate Professor of Media Studies, Director of First-Year Experience
Laurie Coulter, Associate Vice President of Institutional Enrollment, Executive Director of Financial Aid
Nicole Deluna ’22
Crystalle Fry ’20
Alex Haj ’18, Assistant Director of Alumni Engagement
Eugenia Harris, Executive Director of Institutional Research, Registrar
Felix Harcourt, Assistant Professor of History
Victoria Hughes, Director of Stewardship
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Justice Mercadel ’21
Melanie Oelfke ’84, Director of Well Being and Human Resources, Title IX Coordinator
Andrea Overbay, Associate Professor of Mathematics, Director of Johnson Center
Alan Ramirez, Associate Vice President of Institutional Enrollment, Dean of Admission
Laura Ramsey, Director of Academic Skills Center
Heidi Rushing ’04, Associate Director of Marketing and Public Affairs
David Turk, Executive Director of FafciWes
Brian Watkins ’04, Assistant Professor of Anthropology, Chair of the Department of Anthropology & Sociology

Posey Leadership Award
September 1, 2020
Convocation and Award Presentation

Double Your Impact
for students like Erin Adams ’20
Your gift to Austin College helps support students like Erin Adams ’20. Every gift made to the Austin College Emergency Response Effort will be matched, dollar-for-dollar up to $500,000 thanks to the support of David ’65 and Judy Easterly. Please help Austin College continue to deliver its mission to our students.