Each month, the Office of Equal Opportunity (OEO) celebrates the diversity of our state's workforce.
We look forward to providing content that embraces the differences that make us better together. Check us out here!

National Hispanic Heritage Month is celebrated from Sept. 15 to Oct. 15 each year. During this time, we celebrate the rich history, culture, and influences of the Hispanic and Latinx communities in the United States (U.S.). Hispanic ethnicity is the second largest ethnic group in the U.S., representing 18.9% of the population based on the 2020 Census. Hispanic countries include Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Puerto Rico, Spain, Uruguay, and Venezuela. Additionally, Brazil, French Guiana, Guadeloupe, Haiti, Martinique, Saint Barthelemy, and Saint Martin are Latin American countries.

This national celebration begins on Sept. 15 because this date is significant to the history of independence for many Hispanic countries. On Sept. 15, 1821, five nations in Central America declared their independence from Spain. In addition to this, Mexico declared its independence from Spain on Sept. 16, 1810, and from Chile on Sept. 18 of the same year. Like many national celebrations, Hispanic Heritage started out as a week. When it became a month-long celebration, it was decided to keep the starting date of Sept. 15.

Known for the vibrant art, music, dance, and cuisine, Hispanic traditions are enjoyed by Americans of all backgrounds in the U.S. Traditions such as celebrating Cinco de Mayo or breaking a piñata at a birthday party are popular and have been adopted by many other cultures in the U.S. Other traditional celebrations in Hispanic communities include Fiesta Quinceanera to celebrate the 15th birthday and Dia de Muertos to honor the dead.

Contact us if you have ideas on diverse groups to celebrate at CelebrateDiversity@oa.mo.gov.