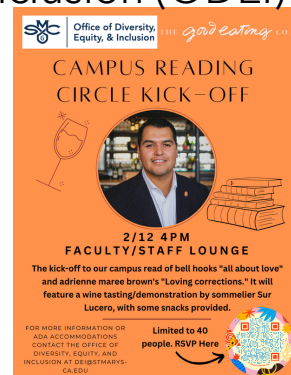


# Mission and Ministry Center (MMC)

# Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (ODEI)



**2/21: Fair Trade Friday**  
Free! Coffee, Tea, and Chocolate!  
ADA Accessible. **10am-12pm** at MMC.

**2/26: Solidarity Supper**  
Mission and Ministry Center and Gael Pantry  
We invite you to join us for a free home-cooked meal. **5-6pm at MMC Courtyard.**

**2/12: Campus Reading Circle Kick-Off**  
ODEI & GEC  
The kick-off to our campus read of bell hooks "all about love" and adrienne maree brown's "Loving corrections." It will feature a wine tasting/demonstration by sommelier Sur Lucero, with some snacks provided. Limited to 40 people & RSVP on the QR code. **4pm at the Faculty/Staff Lounge.**

## National and International Events

**2/1: Black History Month**  
Celebrates the rich cultural heritage, triumphs, and adversities by African Americans and their central role in U.S. history. This year's theme "African Americans and Labor."

**2/28-3/30: Ramadan**  
The ninth month of the Islamic calendar observed by Muslims as a holy commemoration of Muhammad's first revelation and one of the Five Pillars of Islam through community, prayer, reflection, and fasting.

**1/29-2/12: Lunar New Year**  
The beginning of the new year based on the lunar calendar celebrated primarily by East and Southeast Asian cultures. This is the year of the snake, which is the sixth animal in the 12-year cycle of the Chinese zodiac. The snake represents wisdom, intuition and transformation.

**2/28-3/8: Carnaval**  
Latinx celebration rooted in Catholic and Indigenous traditions leading up to Ash Wednesday. Typically includes parade floats, costumes, dance, music, and specialty foods (with variation between Latinx cultures or nationalities).

**3/1: Women's History Month**  
A month-long celebration and commemoration of the vital role of women in U.S. history.

**3/5: Ash Wednesday**  
Christian first day of Lent. Participation in an Ash Wednesday service or distribution of the ashes is observed by many Christians and may require schedule flexibility.

**3/5-4/21: Lent**  
Many, mostly Christians, around the world, take time to celebrate 40 days of the religious season we call Lent. In the Roman Catholic tradition, Lent is a reminder of and journey to our Baptism. Lent starts on Ash Wednesday and continues for 40 days (excluding Sundays), ending with the celebration of Easter. Ongoing fasting, particularly on the Fridays.

**3/8: International Women's Day**  
A celebration of women's social, cultural, and political achievements while protesting against gender violence and inequality.

# DEI Tool of the Month

The purpose of this section is to provide people with resources, tools, and techniques you can implement in your daily life to promote and thrive in a diverse, equitable, and inclusive environment. There are many resources out there so feel free to send us your recommendations as well.

M. Scott Peck's definition of love (*The Road Less Traveled*, 1978):

"the will to extend one's self for the purpose of nurturing one's own or another's spiritual growth."... "Love is as love does. Love is an act of will-namely, both an intention and an action. Will also implies choice. We do not have to love. We choose to love." Highlighted by Bell Hooks in her book *All About Love New Visions* (2001, p.4)

The word is more than a noun, it is a verb. It is more than intimacy with a partner and can be at all levels of relationship with people. Love is a choice at any moment of every day. Let us never forget that love is the most powerful tool for embodying a just world where everyone thrives. Imagine the world if everyone chose love in every topic, in every challenge, and in every opportunity.

“To truly love we must learn to mix various ingredients — care, affection, recognition, respect, commitment, and trust, as well as honest and open communication.” (Hooks)





Office of Diversity,  
Equity, & Inclusion

Thank You

