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Thoughtful acknowledgment of cultural, heritage, and religious observances fosters belonging, invites learning, and strengthens connections. Through this effort, the *Office of University Engagement and Enrichment (OEE)* serves as a connector and amplifier—curating resources, highlighting events, and creating space for awareness in collaboration with campus partners to recognize the richness of traditions represented across our institution.

Cultural, Heritage, & Religious Observances: August 2026

OBSERVANCE ~ AUGUST **9**

International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples

Marking the 1982 first meeting of the UN Working Group on Indigenous Populations, this day honors the rights, knowledge, and living traditions of the world's roughly 476 million Indigenous people. This year's UN theme, *Honouring Indigenous Midwives: Safeguarding Life and Well-being*, affirms the value of Indigenous knowledge systems in advancing culturally rooted approaches to health.

Learn more → un.org

OBSERVANCE ~ AUGUST **26**

Women's Equality Day

Commemorating the 1920 certification of the 19th Amendment—the culmination of a decades-long suffrage movement that secured women's right to vote—this day was designated by Congress in 1973. It celebrates that milestone while recognizing the ongoing work toward full gender equality across civic, professional, and social life.

Learn more → nationalwomenshistoryalliance.org

OBSERVANCE ~ AUGUST **31**

International Day for People of African Descent

Proclaimed by the UN General Assembly in 2020 and first observed in 2021, this day honors the shared heritage and profound contributions—political, economic, social, and cultural—of Africans and the global African diaspora, home to more than 200 million people in the Americas alone. It also acknowledges the transatlantic slave trade as one of the darkest chapters of human history and reaffirms a commitment to dignity, justice, and equity in confronting racism and discrimination worldwide.

Learn more → un.org

> ***Delivering on the promise of human rights means creating a future that is more peaceful, equal, and sustainable for all.***
>
> UN Human Rights Chief Volker Türk

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