

THE FOREFRONT

Putting People First

The UVA Cancer Center Quarterly DEI Newsletter

Dear Colleagues, Happy spring!

As we enter this new season, a few things remain 1) my confidence in the great work that is occurring at the Cancer Center, 2) that great people like you are how we're able to be the best, and 3) you are valued. As a cancer center, we are able to identify our wins: patient outcomes and feedback, groundbreaking research, cancer screening, and DEI to name a few. I will always celebrate our wins, big and small, and encourage you to do the same. Among these wins will always be opportunities.

The Cancer Center is committed to diversity, equity, and inclusion, alignment with the UVA Health ASPIRE values, and inclusive excellence. We're preparing to re-administer the Cancer Center Workplace Climate Survey this spring. This annual survey helps us identify essential feedback that aids us in our ongoing commitment to fostering a diverse, equitable, and inclusive workplace. I am looking forward to your response!

Last year, the Cancer Center responded to the survey results with the next steps. Of the eight action items provided, I am proud to report that six of our commitments have been operationalized, and the remaining two will be live by July 19. While we acknowledge that work still remains, I thank you for your patience, partnership, and continued support. I request your real-time feedback via the DEI Experience Reporting & Feedback Tool. You can also request a meeting with me to discuss your experiences, concerns, and feedback.

UVA Cancer Center is committed to promoting inclusion and equity by creating an environment that supports and enables the success of a diverse community. We hope that your experiences at the Cancer Center reflect this commitment, and if they do not, please make us aware.

I encourage you to join one of the Cancer Center's four task forces.

I look forward to your continued partnership and the year ahead.

All my very best,



Marquita Taylor, PhD, MPH, MBA

UVACCC Associate Director for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion
Assistant Professor of Public Health Sciences
University of Virginia School of Medicine



DEI UPDATES

QUARTERLY LISTENING AND REPORTING TOURS

DEI Listening and Reporting Tours are an opportunity for the Cancer Center Associate Director for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion to share priorities, progress, opportunities, and the ongoing work of DEI at the cancer center and to engage in discussion and feedback.

Please save the following dates and times for the tours, which will be held in person and virtually.

Wednesday, April 24, from 2-3 p.m.

Zoom: <https://virginia.zoom.us/j/9713375657>

Location: EC 3303

Thursday, July 25, 4-5 p.m.

Zoom: <https://virginia.zoom.us/j/9713375657>

Location: TBD

Wednesday, Nov. 6, 2-3 p.m.

Zoom: <https://virginia.zoom.us/j/9713375657>

Location: EC 3303

*Light snacks and refreshments will be provided.

WELCOME TO TONYA FREDERICKS!



We welcome Tonya Fredericks, Faculty Talent Engagement Program Manager, to the Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion.

DEI EVENTS

Women in Healthcare and Aspiring Leaders Lunch and Phenomenal Women Award Presentation

This event took place on March 1 at the Graduate Hotel. Thanks to all who attended, nominated their colleagues, and the 2024 Phenomenal Women Awardees. [Click here](#) to join in on the festivities by viewing the photos.

UVACC DEI Eid Celebration

Location: West Complex, 6th Floor, RM 6191

Thursday, April 18 from 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

Eid al-Fitr, or "the Festival of Breaking the Fast," is a vibrant

2-3 day Muslim celebration marking the end of Ramadan.

Traditions vary globally but typically include preparing special foods, gathering with friends and family, and gift exchanges. It is meant to be a time of joy and blessings with a special focus on charity.

Nursing and Medicine Community Festival Event

Cosponsored by the Cancer Center Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

Location: Courtyard between MR5 and MR6

Thursday, April 18 from 5 p.m.-7 p.m.

Cancer Center New Hire Breakfast

Location: West Complex, 6th Floor, RM 6191

Wednesday, April 24 from 7:30 a.m.-9:30 a.m.

RSVP [HERE](#) by April 16

ELEVATE: Cancer Center Staff Fest

Location: Pinn Hall

Friday, July 19

The first session will run from 8:30 a.m. to noon, followed by a second session with the same programming from 12:30 p.m.-3 p.m.

OBSERVANCES AND AWARENESS

APRIL

National Public Health Week (April 1- April 7): Recognizes and celebrates the contributions of public health, and highlights issues that are important to improving the nation's health

World Health Day (April 7): A global observance of health as a human right

Black Maternal Health Week (April 11- April 17): Aims is to amplify the voices of Black mothers and highlight the issues of racial disparities and inequities in maternal health care and maternal health outcomes for Black women in the United States

National Autism Awareness Month: Honors the contribution of people on the autism spectrum and the autism community to our nation and the world

Arab American Heritage Month: Celebrates the contributions and achievements of Arab Americans throughout the past and present

Sexual Assault Awareness Month: Aims to raise public awareness about sexual violence, educate communities on how to prevent it, support survivors, and promote healthy relationships

Cancer Control Month: Raises awareness about cancer prevention, early detection, treatment, and survivorship

National Donate Life Month: Dedicated to encouraging Americans to register as organ, eye, and tissue donors while celebrating those who have saved lives through the gift of donation

MAY

Cinco de Mayo (May 5): Cinco de Mayo officially commemorates the anniversary of an early victory by Mexican forces over French forces in the Battle of Puebla.

National Nurses Day (May 6): Celebrated annually to raise awareness of the important role nurses play in society

Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month: Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month is a celebration of the culture, traditions, and history of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in the United States.

Jewish American Heritage Month: Celebrates the contributions and experiences of Jewish Americans throughout our nation's history

JUNE

National Cancer Survivors Day (June 2): A day we pause each year to honor those living with a history of cancer for their strength and courage

Juneteenth (June 19): Juneteenth is the oldest-known celebration marking the end of slavery in the United States

National Caribbean American Heritage Month: An annual observance in the United States held during the month of June to celebrate the rich culture, history, and contributions of Caribbean Americans to American society

Pride Month: An annual celebration of the many contributions made by the LGBTQ+ community to history, society, and cultures worldwide

Please do not reply directly to this email. If you have questions, comments or concerns, please email Dr. Taylor at ksm3rt@uvahealth.org.

Our Commitment to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

UVA Cancer Center is committed to promoting inclusion and equity among its internal and external communities by creating an environment that supports and enables the success of a diverse community.