

**From:** Dean Susan L. Ettner

**Sent:** Friday, June 25, 2021 5:05 PM

**Subject:** Juneteenth Holiday

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## Graduate Division

Dear Graduate Students and Postdoctoral Scholars:

Two and a half years after President Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation, the last remaining enslaved people in Texas finally learned they were free on June 19, 1865 — officially ending slavery in the United States. One year later, freed persons in Texas organized the inaugural celebration of “Jubilee Day” on June 19. Also known as Liberation Day and Freedom Day, Juneteenth is the oldest nationally celebrated commemoration of the ending of slavery.

In recognition of Black liberation, Juneteenth is a reminder that although our nation has come a long way, the work to advance racial equality and justice must continue. As we celebrate Juneteenth becoming a federal and UC holiday, we must not forget about the lives that were lost on the path to freedom and the lives that continue to be negatively impacted by racial injustices and systemic racism.

Ending systemic oppression and dismantling racist and inequitable higher education systems is not only the work of diversity, inclusion, and equity officers; it is the responsibility of the entire campus. Following the [Chancellor and EVCP's recent message](#), the Graduate Division is committed to working collectively to ensure [equality, equity and justice](#) for all who come through our UCLA doors.

In unity,

**Susan L. Ettner**

Dean of Graduate Education  
UCLA Graduate Division

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