In September 2021, Emory University recognized National Hispanic Heritage Month. In collaboration with campus partners, we have curated resources that highlight, educate, and encourage a sense of community members from fully engaging in and enjoying all the benefits offered by our University.

The observation started in 1968 as Hispanic Heritage Week under President Lyndon B. Johnson and was expanded by President Ronald Reagan in 1988 to cover a 30-day period from September 15 to October 15. September 16 and October 15 are celebrated as Latin America Independence Day in addition to the recognition of Hispanic and Latino culture. September 15, 2021 marked the first day of National Hispanic Heritage Month.

The celebration started in the United States with the intention of highlighting the accomplishments and contributions of Hispanic Americans. Initially, Hispanic Heritage Month was recognized during the annual holiday to celebrate the nations of Latin America's independence. This month-long observance celebrates the cultures and histories of Hispanic Americans, who are descendants of Hispanic origin from the Spanish-speaking countries of Central and South America, Mexico, and the Spanish Caribbean.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the Hispanic and Latino population in the United States has grown from 12 million in 1970 to 58.5 million in 2018. Hispanics now make up the largest minority group in the U.S., with 47% of the U.S. population being either Hispanic or Latino.

The Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion partners with campus and community organizations to foster a welcoming and inclusive environment where everyone can thrive. In honor of National Hispanic Heritage Month, we are sharing resources and activities that celebrate the diversity within our community. For a complete list of events, please visit our website.

We encourage everyone to learn more about the history, culture, and contributions of Hispanic Americans and to support their voices and experiences. By doing so, we can create a more inclusive and equitable society where everyone has an opportunity to succeed.

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To learn more about Emory's commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion, visit our website. If you have any questions or comments, please contact us at oedi@emory.edu.