



Proclamation

Hispanic Heritage Month 2019

I hereby designate October 2019 as Hispanic Heritage Month at Stony Brook University. The purpose of the month is to focus attention on the Latino community, to provide educational opportunities, to celebrate achievements, to recognize the contributions and needs, and to present the many and diverse aspects of the Latino culture to the University. The 2019 National theme for Hispanic Heritage Month is “Hispanic Americans: A History of Serving Our Nation.” The Stony Brook theme for 2019 is “Thirty Years of Latino Excellence at Stony Brook University; Treinta Años de Excelencia Latina en La Universidad de Stony Brook.” Both themes invite us to reflect on the service and contributions that Latino Americans have made in the history of our nation and this university.

In this 30th year of programming, a variety of events and activities have been planned by departments and students around this theme. These include lectures, films, educational workshops, art exhibits, culinary programs, a bilingual mass and the annual closing ceremony that features awards and recognition for students, faculty and staff who have made significant contributions to the Hispanic community at Stony Brook. The national observation of Hispanic Heritage Month was initiated in 1968 as National Hispanic Heritage Week. It begins on September 15, the anniversary of independence for five Latin American countries—Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua. In addition, Mexico declared its independence on September 16 and Chile on September 18. In 1988, the celebration was expanded to 30 days and ends on October 15.

During this 30th annual tradition at Stony Brook University, I encourage you to share, explore and learn more about the rich cultural, political and historical perspectives and the social and economic impact of Latinos. By increasing our awareness, highlighting our commonalities, and promoting understanding we can further appreciate the contributions that Latinos make within the University Community and within our society. Please join me in supporting Hispanic Heritage Month at Stony Brook.

Michael Bernstein
Interim President, Stony Brook University

