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**BIPOC
LEADERSHIP TEAM
NEWSLETTER
MAY 2024**



Updates:

1.

OUR TEAM

MET WITH CARL CRAWFORD ON 4/17. WE GAVE HIM INFORMATION ON OUR EXPERIENCES AS BIPOC PEOPLE WORKING FOR THE COUNTY. IT WAS INVALUABLE FOR HIM TO MEET WITH AND HEAR FROM SO MANY OF US. THANK YOU TO THOSE WHO WERE ABLE TO GO!

2. CARL CRAWFORD

STARTED WITH THE COUNTY ON 4/1. HIS OFFICE IS IN THE COURTHOUSE. GO BY AND VISIT HIM IF YOU'RE EVER IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD!

3. WHAT IS DEI WORKING ON?

SETTING A PLAN FOR RECRUITING LEADERSHIP FROM UP NORTH AND OTHER DEPARTMENTS TO JOIN DEI

4. WHAT GROUP WORK IS COMING UP FOR ERGS?

WE WILL BE WORKING TOGETHER TO COME UP WITH A ERG STARTUP TOOLKIT. MORE INFORMATION WILL BE ON OUR AGENDA FOR MAY.





TEAM MEMBER OF THE MONTH



HELLO,
I'M ALBERTO TORRES ARREOLA

Title: Financial Worker
Time at St. Louis County: 2 months



I was born in Juarez, Chihuahua, I lived there until I was the age of 4 or 5 which at that point my mom and I immigrated to the state of MN. My mom held onto a lot of traditions that she shared with me as I grew up, some of them were more easily accessible like watching anything and everything in Spanish. We unfortunately didn't have access to a lot of Mexican culture but she kept that alive by only talking with me in Spanish, making long distance phone calls to my Dad or grandparents, visiting them every summer if possible, visiting with my aunt and cousins that lived close to us, and going to our local Mexican restaurant where we could feel welcomed by other Hispanic and Spanish speaking people.

My favorite memories of my culture are all linked to the time I spent in Texas with my maternal grandparents Eladio and Patricia. I spent time with them learning, laughing, and crying to the stories they told of their life! They are the reason I love to cook, work hard, have pride in my culture, and they gave me an understanding of where I came from and who made it possible for me to be here.

I was recently married to my wife Elizabeth Torres, we recently had our 1st born daughter and her name is Dalia Maria Torres, we also have cats we adopted from local animal shelters and their names are in order of age: Jade (girl black cat), Ruby (girl black cat), Tecali (a boy gray and white tabby named after the word for marble in Nahuatl-a native tongue well known in Mexico) and Kiwi (girl black cat)

I would like to share that my wife and I began celebrating El Dia de Los Muertos last year. My Abuelita Patricia passed away 5 years ago in October. I never actually grew up celebrating with my mom, probably because we had never lost someone that was near and dear to both of us until my grandma passed away. I remember really struggling with this tradition and my wife being so excited because she was celebrating her father that passed away when she was 13 years old. It took a lot of courage to overcome the fact that by celebrating her death, I was also accepting she truly had left us for good. I am happy to say that I am more than excited for our family to continue this beautiful tradition and that our daughter will get to know her great grandma, through me and everyone else who knew her in life by celebrating her death.





05 MAY, 2023



CINCO DE MAYO

In honor of Cinco De Mayo, BIPOC ERG member, Alberto Torres Arreola, shared his perspective.



For those of you that don't know, Cinco de Mayo is a date celebrating la Batalla de Puebla on the morning 05/05/1862 (the Battle of Puebla), a battle that was won thanks to the Mexican Army and regional indigenous people that were outnumbered 2 to 1 (with forces estimated at 2,000-5,000) against the French (forces estimated at 6,000.) This battle is still remembered today as a great feat by the Mexican Army and celebrated in Mexico as well as in the United States. I personally don't celebrate this awesome moment in history like most people, but I do find it a great time every year to think about my ancestors. I think Mexican culture is rich with stories of great triumphs and of people who fight hard for their family and for their culture. When I visited Mexico City, we drove all the way to Puebla, and I had the chance to walk the streets and sidewalks and it made Cinco De Mayo feel all that more real. Personally, this is a holiday that brings me a lot of pride to my home country of Mexico, it's a symbol of how determined and strong my ancestors were to fight even when all odds were against them.

**MAY
15**

NEXT BIPOC MEETING

10AM-11AM



WHAT'S UP?

LET TAWNEY KNOW IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN ANY OF THE FOLLOWING:

- START TO THINK ABOUT ERG STARTUP TOOLKIT CONTENT AND PARAMETERS. WE WILL DISCUSS AT THE MAY MEETING.
- JUNETEENTH IS COMING UP. WHAT DOES THE BIPOC GROUP WANT TO DO?
- THE PHHS CONFERENCE IS COMING UP. DO WE WANT TO TABLE AND/OR LEAD A SEMINAR?
- WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THE BIPOC NEWSLETTER AND COMMUNICATIONS? ANY SHOUT OUTS OR THINGS YOU WANT TO INCLUDE FOR JUNE?
- DO YOU WANT TO HOST A HANG OUT OR HAVE IDEAS FOR A GET TOGETHER?

