Welcome to May!

By Eric Hernandez, IDEA Committee

Welcome to May! In terms of Diversity and Inclusion, the month of May is a jampacked month full of recognizing diverse groups and cultures across the world. May is considered both Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander (AANHPI) Heritage Month and Haitian Heritage Month. In addition, we are celebrating diverse holidays such as the ending of both Ridvan and Ramadan (on the 2nd of May), Cinco de Mayo (on the 5th), and World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development (on the 21st).

Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander (AANHPI) Month expanded on what was a week of commemorating Asian American communities in the U.S. and has now come to include groups who call Hawaii and the various Pacific Islands their native home. May was a great month to celebrate these groups as historically it was the month in which the first Japanese immigrants arrived in the US (1843) and the transcontinental railroad—in which the majority of the workers building it were Chinese immigrants—was completed (1869).



May is also designated as Haitian Heritage Month as an extension of Haitian Flag Day, which is celebrated on the 18th. This commemorates the creation of the first Flag of Haiti in 1804 upon the success of the Haitian Revolution—which was the only successful, large-scale revolt of slaves in history. Not only that, but Haiti's independence resulted in the establishment of the first independent black state in the New World!

We at Crystal Equation are dedicated to bringing awareness to and celebrating diversity so that we create a more inclusive environment for all people. We extend a happy AANHPI and Haitian Heritage Months to those who are of Asian, Hawaiian, Pacific Island, and Haitian descent. If you'd like more resources or information on DEI topics, please visit our website www.crystalequation.com/idea.