**REGIONAL EMERGING MULTICULTURAL LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE**

**REMLE IS COMING TO SPRINGFIELD JUNE 2020**

Every other year, Y-USA will host a National Emerging Multicultural Leadership Experience—or EMLE, a conference to support staff of color and engage allies in disrupting the systemic barriers they face.

Every year, Y’s also have the opportunity to engage in hosting regional events with the same goal, just on a smaller scale. This year, the YMCA of Greater Hartford is partnering with 10 other Y’s to host REMLE (Regional EMLE) at Springfield College, June 5th & 6th. (Pending any complications due to COVID 19.) **SAVE THE DATE.**

**THEN ➔ NOW ➔ NEXT**

**WHAT’S YOUR VISION?**

*Regional EMLE Tour 2020*

**SAVE THE DATE | June 5th–6th**

It’s time to start our countdown for the 2020 Regional EMERGING MULTICULTURAL LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE (EMLE) TOUR!

To apply for a free ticket, courtesy of the Global Initiatives Committee, our GHY event sponsor, [CLICK HERE.](#)

Registration coming soon! For questions: [robin.thibault@ghymca.org](mailto:robin.thibault@ghymca.org)

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**GHYMCA DIG Statement:**

The Y is made up of diverse people working side by side to strengthen our communities. Together, we work to ensure everyone -- of any income, faith, ability, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, race, ethnicity, national origin, cultural background or other unique personal characteristics -- has the opportunity to live life to its fullest. We share the values of caring, honesty, respect and responsibility, which are the foundation for everything we do.

[Visit our DIG website page HERE](#)
CELEBRATING DIVERSITY
BLACK HISTORY MONTH AT THE Y

Ever February is Black History Month—a time when Black and African American people are honored and remembered for their integral roles in our history.

In addition to asking staff to wear black on February 28th to show solidarity, here’s how some of our teams celebrated at the Y.

Wilson–Gray—$50 Grant Winner from the GIC

The Wilson–Gray branch received a $50 grant from the Global Initiatives Committee to help purchase movies for their weekly Dinner & a Movie events each Friday of the month. Youth from the Hartford area were invited to attend this annual tradition for a chance to learn about historical events, grab a meal, and engage in conversation.

Wheeler

The Wheeler YMCA posted quotes and images of famous Black figures down the length of their hallways so members could learn and be inspired all February. They also hosted weekly story time for kids to learn about contributions the Black and African American communities made to the U.S.

Indian Valley—$50 Grant Winner from the GIC

The Indian Valley YMCA posted displays throughout their facility to demonstrate the importance of the underground railroad during times of slavery. This sparked conversations about the local role Connecticut played in helping escaped slaves travel North. Their families in childcare also contributed to a display celebrating Black culture and heritage.

Glastonbury

The children in Glastonbury’s childcare sites worked together to create collaborative art pieces—quilts, each child contributing a square that represented a different step along a slave girl’s journey. They read the story and pieced the colorful quilts together for an important lesson on shared history.

Farmington Valley

The Farmington Valley YMCA planned a daily trivia question for members, used Motivation Mondays as a way to highlight inspiring figures on social media, and displayed a slideshow on the TV in their lobby. This demonstrates how the every day things we do for engagement at the Y can be transformed to integrate cultural competency throughout the year.

Downtown & Metro—$50 Grant Winner

Downtown and Metro got together to host Black History Trivia Lunch. Staff from both branches competed for prizes in a trivia game, with lunch from Black Eyed Sally’s. Prizes included “The Hate U Give” movie, and audio copy of “Between the World and Me”, YMCA buttons, a flash deck with historical figures, and a set of “Dope University” card game.

The Global Initiatives Committee (GIC) is an association board level subcommittee, made up of volunteers and staff, that has been engaged in global engagement through GHY for over 50 years. The mission of the GIC is to promote international understanding and increase cultural competency throughout the YMCA of Greater Hartford and its communities in order to better serve our members and communities in an increasingly diverse and inter-connected society. To get involved, reach out to robin.thibault@ghymca.org
Every year, the YMCA of Greater Hartford completes a report to Y-USA—a piece of this report includes sharing about our DIG efforts. Y-USA returns the information with advice for areas where there’s room for improvement and ideas on how to impact change.

For the first time, we’ve also asked each branch to complete a DIG survey as part of their annual reporting. We’d like to share the results with you and ask for a favor—if the person who completed the report for your branch missed out on something you do at your Y, share it with us so we have more accurate measurements in the future. Want to read the full reports? Email robin.thibault@ghymca.org

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Diverse Abilities Inclusion Programs</th>
<th>Diverse Faith/ Belief Programs</th>
<th>DIG-focused Forums, Events, Festivals</th>
<th>Global Education / Leadership Development</th>
<th>Hosting International Visitors</th>
<th>International Activities in Y Programs</th>
<th>International Camp Counselors</th>
<th>International Exchanges of Volunteers/Staff</th>
<th>International Fund-Raising Campaigns</th>
<th>International Y to Y Relationships</th>
<th>LGBTQ Inclusion Programs</th>
<th>Local Employee Resource Groups</th>
<th>Programs Targeted to Newcomer Communities</th>
<th>Regional EMLE</th>
<th>Service-Learning</th>
<th>Underserved Communities Programs</th>
<th>Veteran/Military Inclusion Programs</th>
<th>Welcoming Week Activities</th>
<th>World Service Programming</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
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WELCOME NEW EMPLOYEES!

Samantha Breno  
Emily Linton  
Angelika Weddaborn  
Anthony Covell  
Cristina Gonzalez  
Bryanna Bermani  
Agnes Ucher  
Kristina Frederick  
Walter Scudder  
Sasha Benitez  
Michaela Orciari  
Julia Cortes  
Stacy Lawes  
Julie Francis  
Halle Gavin  
Brian O'Dea  
Duane Mack  
Marcell Thomas  
Connor Chahanovich  
William Looney  
Gabriela Storo  
Donna Sweet-Prybyla  
Dayzra Bournes  
Jehandrae Grant  
Ata Asheghi  
Lori Thomas  
Michael Patulak  
Carmeta Stewart  
Jimmie Wallace  
Chaz Johnson  
Marc-Anthony Johnson  
James Gorman Jr  
Sapphira Murphy  
Jordan Daniels  
Cali Holt  
Ghislaine Janet Nadeau  
Mary McCarthy  
Joey Quinones  
Joan Bailey  
Scott O'Brien  
Elaina Raymond  
Derek Jones  
Christopher Labby  
Kirsten Morrow  
Julia Raynock  
Madeline Bolduc  
Morgan Beben  
Emily Bowman  
Brooke Gustafson  
Steven Wilson  
Ralph Goodwin  
Natalie Graham-Simmons  
Sawyer McManus  
Jonathan Colon  
Lynne Anderson  
Kaylee Valentino  
Diego Rodriguez  
Rachel Durgin  
Justin Flores  
Tori Trantolo  
Sophie Minella  
Pierce Weatherspoon  
James Manning  
Matthew Devanney  
Sloan Clabon  
Jillian Conte  
Jazmyne Bush  
Justin Hicks  
Amaziah Gadson  
Ella Baggott  
Rebecca Everly  
Sydney Blair  
Larry Ziehm  
Jenna Swist  
Julia Swanson  
Gabriel Reinhart  
Ekaterina Biryukova  
Barbara Cormier  
Patricia Reville  
Michelle Thompson  
Carly Mangan  
Nemesis Algarin  
Megan Preston  
Vincent Rebello  
Donna Stumper  
Jamell Simmons  
Nicholas Shaw  
Caitlin Gannon  
Bridget Arena  
Laura White  
Jake McCausland  
Max Daniel  
Shanita Hill  
Leeandra Garcia  
Emma Kolb  
Jacob Feliciano  
Peter Richardson  
Sarah Kaminski

This is a list of employees starting between December 2nd and February 28th. If anyone is missing from this list, they might have been included in the last newsletter, or they might still need to be entered into Kronos. Reach out for questions—robin.thibault@ghymca.org