



# DIVERSITY & INCLUSION NEWSLETTER The YMCA of Greater Hartford



Winter  
2018/2019



Here are some Winter highlights from around our Y.

## YMCA of Greater Hartford 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.

## Want to attend the Latinas and Power Symposium?

MAY 16, 2019

SAVE THE DATE

LATINAS  
AND  
POWER  
SYMPOSIUM

HARTFORD MARRIOTT DOWNTOWN • THURSDAY, MAY 16, 2019

Each year for the last two years, the President's Office has sponsored attendance for staff at the Annual Latinas and Power Symposium in Hartford. This year, it's May 16th.

It's an excellent opportunity to network with other professionals from Hispanic and Latina communities & explore workshops, speakers, etc.

If you're interested in attending, please let Robin know by April 19th: [robin.thibault@ghymca.org](mailto:robin.thibault@ghymca.org)

Thank you, Harold, for supporting this opportunity for staff!

## INCLUSIVE WELLNESS

"There is no one-size-fits-all when it comes to being 'well.'"

Here's a great article on Healthy Living For All:

[Wellness Should Be More Inclusive, and Here's What You Can Do to Help](#)



Did you know? The YMCA has an Employee Wellness Committee! Want to join? Contact: [chris.hibbs@ghymca.org](mailto:chris.hibbs@ghymca.org)

# Diversity, Inclusion & Global Equity Newsletter

## ASSOCIATION-WIDE HIGHLIGHTS

### WOMEN'S DAY, READ ACROSS AMERICA, SENIOR ENGAGEMENT

Our Y's across Greater Hartford participated in Read Across America, and we've made a strong commitment to senior engagement and inclusion at our branches. To learn more, ask your membership team!

Our featured highlight is International Women's Day, which was March 8th, and two teams of women, at Farmington Valley and Wilson-Gray, hosted events.



Thank you to our staff who inspired people to come together, our special guests, and thanks to all the women who make the Y a success—you make up 2/3 of our work force and deserve so much credit and appreciation! #bossladies

Click each image to see more:

#### Want to be a part of Women's Leadership?

Reach out to Robin, association-wide:  
[robin.thibault@qhymca.org](mailto:robin.thibault@qhymca.org)

Also, you can contact champions...

Wilson-Gray: Deepika Singhal  
[deepika.singhal@qhymca.org](mailto:deepika.singhal@qhymca.org)

Farmington Valley: Marissa Teed  
[marissa.teed@qhymca.org](mailto:marissa.teed@qhymca.org)



## BRANCH HIGHLIGHTS

- **Farmington Valley** afterschool kids learned Chinese for the New Year.
- **East Hartford** attended the Youth & Government Annual Conference.
- **Indian Valley** held their 7th Annual Multi-Cultural Night.
- **Hale** attended a volunteer fair and ran in the rain during O'Putnam.
- **Downtown** celebrated National Reading Day with Footlights.
- **Camp Woodstock** trained fundraising volunteers at Riverfront Recapture.
- **Wilson-Gray** has been setting up their new Best Buy Tech Center.
- **Glastonbury** performed Mary Poppins as their annual play.
- **West Hartford's** Jr. NBA Skills Challenge sent 3 winners to championships.
- **Tri-Town** afterschool kids celebrated Dr. Suess week with crafts and puzzles.
- **Wheeler** hosted a Family Night Glow Party and celebrated Black History Month.
- **Camp Jewell** volunteers helped stain logs for the new cabin.



There's always so much going on at our Y.

Want to see more?  
[Follow DIG on facebook.](#)



## Diversity, Inclusion & Global Equity Newsletter

### GLOBAL LEADER CERTIFICATION SPONSORSHIP BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE GLOBAL INITIATIVES COMMITTEE

As an association board committee, here's the Global Initiatives Committee's (GIC) Mission:

The mission of the YMCA of Greater Hartford Global Initiatives Committee 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.

We have three priority goals:

- Support the YMCA of Greater Hartford in its community engagement efforts
- Help the Y to increase the cultural competency of our staff, volunteers, and members
- Develop global relationships with international Y's that represent local underserved populations

Two ways that we are fulfilling our mission this year are...

- To sponsor staff and volunteers along a path toward Global Leader Certification, where participants manage a community-based project that serves nearby global populations.
- To sponsor two branches with a grant toward a DIG (Diversity, Inclusion, Global) initiative.

To get more involved in Global Leadership, contact:  
[robin.thibault@ghymca.org](mailto:robin.thibault@ghymca.org)



ARE YOU A  
**GLOBAL**  
YMCA LEADER?

We want to sponsor you!

Our Global Initiatives Committee is looking for YMCA staff and volunteers who want to earn their Global Leadership Certification.



- Serve a global community in your area
- Attend free training through Y-USA
- Win seed money toward your project
- Receive an award for earning your cert

### DIG AROUND THE GLOBE SPRINGFIELD COLLEGE GLOBAL RECEPTION



Springfield College is an excellent resource of YMCA institutional and historical knowledge, and for leadership development and education; but did you know, Springfield is also heavily engaged in international exchanges. If you're looking to learn more about the Y on a global scale—Peru, Colombia, etc.—you might want to explore Springfield College's opportunities and activities.

[Check out YMCA Professional Studies Program on facebook](#)

### Multi-Cultural Leadership

The Y of Greater Hartford is part of a Y-USA initiative to support staff of color. The GIC has helped cover the cost of training for a few staff—want to learn about getting your training sponsored?

To get involved with the Women's, LGBTQ+, or Leadership Development ERGs (Employee Resource Groups) or to start an interest group of your choice, contact: [robin.thibault@ghymca.org](mailto:robin.thibault@ghymca.org)

### CULTURE CHAMPION AWARDS!



NOMINATE YOUR CO-WORKER FOR AN AWARD

DEADLINE April 12th

[CLICK HERE TO SUBMIT YOUR NOMINATION!!](#)



# DIVERSITY & INCLUSION NEWSLETTER

The YMCA of Greater Hartford

## WELCOME NEW EMPLOYEES!

Salina Davignon  
Benjamin Kittredge  
Jeannette Shippee  
James Fitzsimmons  
Colleen Hiller  
Garrett West  
Orianna Opalacz  
Gail Cook  
Aryana Vazquez  
Emily Belanger  
Timothy Erlikh  
Amanda Shepard  
Dana Hill  
Nuha Bhura  
Jasmine Spencer  
Kelly Yatzook  
Mathew Baysinger  
Drew Dauphinee  
Abigail Depner  
Anna Asvestas  
Jessica Ramsay

Aaron Johnson  
Angela Short  
Larissa Regan  
Kimberly Feliciano  
Brian Clark  
Lilia Dunnigan  
Kristina Wylot  
Kimberly Hawkins  
Oscar Rivera  
Kathryn Calnen  
Julia Contardo  
Noah Glymph  
Nolan Morr  
Tyler Connell  
Tina Morra  
Nicolle Cruz  
Irismary Santiago  
Shania Brown  
Michaela Johnson  
John Jr Macon  
Sushmitha Huliyurudurga Krishnappa

Kealy Whitcomb  
Michelle Tedford  
Elaine Peters  
Zachary Winslow  
Delia Wormell  
David Hayes  
Courtney Carroll  
Eric Crane  
Caitlin Gallagher  
Romeo Blackmar  
Alyssa Masi  
Batinah Simms  
Alexander Ortega  
Hannah Wentzell  
Anthony Spica  
Thomas Clark  
Brianna Wasley  
Danielle Gagnon  
Andrea Whitley  
Michael Forbotnick

This is a list of employees starting between February 1st and March 31st. 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](mailto:robin.thibault@ghymca.org)