



Greetings, Southcoast colleagues:

The Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Council is proud to present a Southcoast Health celebration for Hispanic American Heritage Month! This marks a wonderful opportunity for us to recognize our Hispanic American colleagues and their contributions to Southcoast Health and to the United States.

Hispanic American Heritage Month is a nationally recognized commemoration, signed into law in 1968 as a week of recognition and then extended to a month 20 years later. Twenty-one countries are celebrated from September 15 through October 15, including South and Central American countries, as well as Mexico, Spain and the Spanish-speaking Caribbean countries.

The festivities include independence days for seven of these countries during the month. The banner on this email, in addition to the beautiful posters and other recognition materials you'll encounter in our facilities and digital spaces, are representative of the flags of the 21 Hispanic countries.

The Southcoast Health celebration will feature delicious Hispanic meals throughout the month in all three hospital cafeterias. Most importantly, the month will include a celebration of our Southcoast Health Hispanic colleagues as they share their personal stories and professional contributions to Southcoast Health and the communities that we serve.

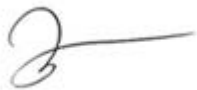
At Southcoast, we have celebrated our colleagues this year during Black History Month, Portugal Freedom Day, Pride Month and now Hispanic American Heritage Month because we know that by listening to people who may be different from ourselves, we take a step closer to awareness and greater understanding. And greater understanding is the pathway to respect and kindness toward each other and to achieving equity of care for our patients.

If you would like to share a story as an Hispanic American Southcoast employee or staff member, please contact Social Media Specialist Katy Crews at [crewsk@southcoast.org](mailto:crewsk@southcoast.org), or if you have an Hispanic American colleague who you believe deserves some recognition, please ask them to share their story.

We always welcome new members to the Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Council. Please reach out to Barbara Schmidt, Director of Organizational Culture and Engagement and Chair of the Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Council, at [schmidtb@southcoast.org](mailto:schmidtb@southcoast.org).

Please enjoy Hispanic American Heritage Month!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'L. De Simon Johnson', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Lauren De Simon Johnson  
Senior Vice President and Chief Human Resources Officer  
Southcoast Health