



Southcoast Colleagues,

On behalf of the Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Council, it is our pleasure to celebrate National Hispanic Heritage Month at Southcoast Health.

Throughout this month, please join us in recognizing our Hispanic colleagues, and honoring their culture, achievements, and valued contributions to Southcoast Health and our community.

Observed from September 15 to October 15, Hispanic Heritage Month was established as a week-long national celebration in 1968, and then extended to a month-long celebration 20 years later. This month is a time to come together and celebrate the histories, cultures, and contributions of those whose ancestors came from South and Central American countries, as well as Mexico, Spain, and the Spanish-speaking countries in the Caribbean.

In recent years, Massachusetts and Rhode Island have enjoyed considerable Hispanic population growth. Between the 2010 and 2020 census, there has been a 40 percent increase in the population of people who identify as Hispanic in each state. In 2020, the census total indicated 12.6 percent of people living in Massachusetts are Hispanic; in Rhode Island, 16.6 percent.

This year, the Southcoast Health celebration will feature delicious meals throughout the month, short videos about the 21 countries celebrated during this time, and most importantly, 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. More details to follow!

Thank you again to the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Council for making this celebration possible. We always welcome new members to the DE&I Council, and if you are interested in getting involved, please reach out to Barbara Schmidt, Director of Organizational Culture and Engagement, at schmidt@southcoast.org.

Please enjoy National Hispanic Heritage Month!

Sincerely,

Lauren A. De Simon Johnson | Sr. Vice President, Chief Human Resources Officer

(She/Her/Hers)

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