



April is Diversity Month

By Navya Menon, Diversity Unit Intern

April is recognized as Diversity Month, a time to celebrate our differences and promote inclusivity. While ethnic and gender diversity is important, it is a common misconception that diversity is limited to ethnicity or gender differences. True diversity encompasses people of all identities, including LGBTQ individuals, disabled people, veterans, and many other groups. Embracing diversity means valuing everyone, regardless of their background, and fostering an inclusive community. Our differences provide unique perspectives and experiences that enrich society as a whole. It is essential to champion a society where everyone feels included and respected.

New Jersey is a leading state in diversity, recognized for its varied and rich cultural tapestry. Here are some quick statistics highlighting NJ's diversity:

- New Jersey is ranked #7 among the most diverse states in the U.S. (WalletHub).
- Today, New Jersey's population is highly diverse, with 59.77% white, 13.12% Black, 9.88% Asian, and 19.7% Latino, making NJ the 8th highest Latino population in the U.S. (World Population Review)
- Around 4% of New Jersey's population identifies with the LGBTQ community, and LGBTQ individuals make up 4% of the workforce. (Movement Advancement Program)
- One-third of New Jersey's veterans are people of color. (NJ.com)

- Immigrants make up approximately 23.4% of New Jersey's population. (NCHstats)
- New Jersey is home to the second largest Jewish population in the U.S.; the second largest Muslim population in the U.S.; and the largest population of Peruvians in the U.S. (World Population Review)

While New Jersey's diversity is remarkable, our journey towards true equality continues. Together, we can build a future where every individual is celebrated, and inclusivity, equality, and openness are the cornerstones of our community. Let us strive together, to make this vision a reality.