



Institute for Multicultural Counseling & Education Services

A private non-profit organization associated with DPI/ NGO
ECOSOC Status at the United Nations for Human Rights

A Message from: Dr. Tara Pir, CEO/ President

The mission of promoting social justice is being actualized on an ongoing basis through actionable, do-able, advocacy plans at IMCES. We celebrate the Thanksgiving event at IMCES with a focus on honoring our diversity of ethnic groups and the indigenous members of our community.

*This year, the theme of our celebration is identified as **"Decolonizing Thanksgiving"**. This year, in addition to bringing food, I invited staff to provide some food for thought for meaningful advocacy and outreach and engagement for our community. In consideration of our theme, staff provided 1-2 statements on a do-able, actionable advocacy plan that they would initiate and provide an insight to our community through their network, including social media.*

This is an invitation of our community to be inspired by our insight-oriented advocacy plans to do exactly the same in their own network to promote truth and justice.

Luis Cordova: *As an action plan for this Thanksgiving, I created a short video about the real story of this celebration, I plan to share them on my social media. I made 2 versions, one in English and another in Spanish that was my original target.*
Spanish: <https://youtu.be/oeKVSJEUirk>
English: https://youtu.be/-e4oU0_i5jA

Arpine Gulgulyan: *I will share a video about the Native American perspective of the thanksgiving holiday on my social media to raise awareness about the true history of thanksgiving*

Michael Morar: *In my work with clients, I plan to continue to question the taken for granted. Meaning, I will take a non-assuming position (decolonizing) in my approach to service delivery. For example, I will ask clients (instead of assuming) to name or describe the problems they are facing in their own words. This would be an experience near description of the problem. "Is depression your word or someone else's description of the problem? How would you describe your current challenge?"*

Ruby E. Negrete: *In order to share the truth, I have shared different videos on my personal social media and I have shared this with my niece in nephew in an attempt to help them learn the truth early on and to engage them to be curious of why we celebrate holiday events, and the underlying story.*

Dr. Christina Xiques: *I plan to use my social media platform (Facebook, Instagram) to educate my clinician friends to provide insight on this area by posting up to date research articles and information regarding this topic. By this, I can help other clinicians be more aware of the unique problems that this population experiences and better ways to serve them.*

Angela Fu: *To continue the dialogue about the meanings, origins, and histories of holidays.*

Alfredo Flores: *As an educator, it is our responsibility to provide education of the real meaning behind thanksgiving and how its celebration negatively impacts both emotionally and psychologically the marginalized community.*

Sydney Pranitis: *I will continue to be sensitive to others experiences of colonialism by never assuming another's experience, and to continue to stay curious/not judgmental. I will strive to continue to question and find the true stories behind these major events and help educate others (like family members and friends) on the truth by posting videos about various people's experiences with colonialism.*

Jashneel Singh: *I would like to continue watching videos, listening to podcasts, and speaking directly with individuals who have been directly affected by the holiday of Thanksgiving. This will allow native/indigenous voices to be uplifted, and allow myself to be constantly educated on the lived experiences of this community.*

James Pelk: *Sharing videos with family about the true history of thanksgiving and acknowledging the native land I am living on.*

Dr. Morquecho: *Educating family and friends about the true history of thanksgiving and colonization.*

To be continued...

