



HONORING THE LEGACY OF JUSTICE RUTH BADER GINSBURG

By Kellie Hale

"I would like to be remembered as someone who used whatever talent she had to do her work to the very best of her ability."

— Ruth Bader Ginsburg

Ruth Bader Ginsburg (RBG) was a trailblazer for women's rights in America. When discussing her legacy, RBG said, "To make life a little better for people less fortunate than you, that's what I think a meaningful life is. One lives not just for oneself but for one's community." That quote encompasses the type of person Ruth was, a champion for those who could not defend themselves.

RBG was well-known for the work she did before becoming a Supreme Court Justice, when she served as an advocate for the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) and became the designer of a legal strategy to bring cases to the courts that would ensure that the 14th Amendment's guarantee of equal protection applied to gender.

"I had the good fortune to be alive and a lawyer in the late 1960s when, for the first time in the history of the United States, it became possible to argue before the courts, successfully, that society would benefit enormously if women were regarded as persons equal in stature to men," she said in a commencement speech in 2002.

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In 1980, President Jimmy Carter nominated Ruth to a seat on the DC circuit appeals court. She would be confirmed by the U.S. Senate on June 18, 1980. She would stay on the DC circuit appeals court until August 9, 1993 when President Bill Clinton nominated her to the U.S. Supreme Court, role she would hold for the next 27 years.

At the Supreme Court, she was best known for the opinion she wrote in the *United States v. Virginia* which held the all-male admissions policy at the state funded Virginia Military Institute was unconstitutional for its ban on women applicants. Steve Vladeck, Supreme Court analyst and law professor at the University of Texas School of Law said that the decision “more than any other, epitomized the justices effort to establish true sex equality as a fundamental constitutional norm, and its effects are continuing to reverberate today.”

RBG died on September 18, 2020 in Washington D.C. after a long and tough battle with pancreatic cancer. She fought long and hard, not just for her life, but for all of us. She was a defender for the underdog, the disenfranchised, and the people viewed least important by society and was the protector for civil, social, and women's rights. Her legacy must live on through us. Her hard work must not be brushed under the rug or pushed to the side by those willing to undermine certain civil liberties.

While RBG may no longer be with us, her memory and legacy of her anti-discrimination work will continue to live on in each of us. She stayed for as long as she could. In RBG's name, we will continue to seek justice for all.

CYBERSECURITY MONTH: DO YOUR PART! #BECYBERSMART



By Kellie Hale

The National Cyber Security Alliance (NCSA) of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) deemed October as Cybersecurity month to highlight the broad effort to make sure Americans understand how to stay safe and secure in an online environment. This year's theme is “#BeCyberSmart”, is crucial during times as “the line between our online and offline lives” have become interchangeable. #BeCyberSmart theme is used to empower individuals, along with organizations about their roles to protect themselves against cyber-attacks. The overall goal is to have our interconnected world remain safe and secure, but most of all, resilient.

Cyber-Security & Forensics at Highline College and Advisory Board member for the Center of Excellence - HSEM said, “The importance of properly trained individuals in cybersecurity has never been more crucial. With employees and employers working from home, using mobile devices, and juggling work / home devices the need for cyber awareness is needed. To train students for the workforce needs requires first looking at the broad definition of ‘cybersecurity.’” Dr. Phillips explains how “the education provided can be very technical in nature as provided by many of our community and technical colleges. It also can be focused in the business, medical and legal arenas.”

We all are susceptible to cyber-attack so it is important to educate and train employees and family members who may be susceptible to cyber-attacks. I recently received to emails that were deemed phishing scams. One email claimed to be the President of Pierce College by asking me to text her my cellphone number. This is not the first time a cyber scam has occurred where the culprit is trying to pass themselves off as one of the presidents from the College. Another cyber scam I received claimed that their photos were being used on our website without their permission and were threatening to take legal action

Dr. Amelia Phillips, Faculty and Program Lead for

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if the photo was not taken down and a fine was paid. The tone of the person's message was very threatening and quite disturbing. It was quickly forwarded to our IT Security department and came back with a confirmation that the email was a cyber scam and to not click on any links included.

Cyber-attacks are occurring more and more with people working from home and kids partaking in remote schooling. Being cyber smart is critical to our daily lives. Michael Kaiser, Executive Director, NCSA said, "that people need to understand they can be cyber safe by merely being more critically aware of suspicious links, particularly if they are included in unknown email accounts, while also factoring in to use public/free Wi-Fi consciously." People can also stay safe by thinking more consciously about when they choose to post their personal information online.

Overall, people need to understand that they can protect themselves as we move more into an online world. There are amazing resources out there on how to be cyber safe. The NCSA will provide weekly content throughout October on ways to #BeCyberSmart that can be incorporated into our everyday lives, while also being able to integrate topics that may be relevant to our organizations.



Here are some simple tasks one can do to keep their devices safe from cyber threats:

1. **Keep Devices Clean:** This includes all devices that are web-connected such as PCs, mobile phones, smartphones, and tablets. Keeping them clean from any type of malware and/or viruses will help secure the Internet for those using the devices.
2. **Stay Two Steps Ahead:** Incorporate two-step or multi-factor authentication on certain accounts. This will enable better verification on devices and accounts, while reducing the risk of cyber interference.
3. **Delete Suspicious Links/Posts/Texts:** If you are not confident that the links in emails, SM posts or texts you receive are not safe, then simply delete them. Most likely, it could be a cybercriminal trying to steal your personal information while also infecting your device with a virus.
4. **Research Apps:** When it comes to downloading apps on your phone, be sure to read the privacy policy and the data the app may have access through your phone. If there are apps you are no longer using, then delete.
5. **Strong Passwords:** A strong password will help improve your security. While you should make passwords that you will remember, it is equally important to make sure your passwords will be hard to guess by other people. Make sure your passwords are different for all accounts.
6. **Golden Rule:** Be mindful of what you post on the Internet.

NCSA's Weekly Content for Cyber Security Month: <https://staysafeonline.org/cybersecurity-awareness-month/theme/>

MEMBERS OF STATE-WIDE CRIMINAL JUSTICE WORK GROUP READ IBRAM X. KENDI'S, "HOW TO BE AN ANTIRACIST"

By Mary Weir

"Antiracist: One who is supporting an anti-racist policy through their actions or expressing an anti-racist idea." (Kendi 2019, 13).

"An antiracist idea is any idea that suggests the racial groups are equals in all their apparent differences – that there is nothing right or wrong with any racial group. Antiracist ideas argue that racist policies are the cause of racial inequities." (Kendi 2019, 20).

On September 14th, members of the Criminal Justice working group met together to discuss the first eleven chapters of Kendi's How to Be An Antiracist. The Criminal Justice working group is a state-wide coalition of Criminal Justice coordinators and faculty members at Washington state Community and Technical Colleges. Several members of the CJ work group decided to read How to Be an Antiracist after George Floyd's tragic death.

As a human, seeing George Floyd's murder was deeply upsetting, although I recognize that as a white woman I was not impacted in the same way as my black and brown colleagues and friends. As a Criminal Justice educator, George Floyd's death was – and continues to be – a demand to interrogate my

role as a Criminal Justice educator. How can I ensure that my teaching is anti-racist? What is my role in promoting racial justice in my classes, at my school, within the Criminal Justice system, in the world? I joined the reading group because I was hoping to discuss these issues with my fellow colleagues and learn from them.

During the reading group, we discussed the importance of helping students recognize their own racism and the racism and bias of the Criminal Justice system in our classes. We discussed how this takes courage – both from our students and from ourselves. One teacher told his own story of being profiled while on his way to work at a jail. We discussed the "us vs. them" mentality and tools to help students recognize othering. We discussed how to ensure assessments truly assess learning and the importance of disaggregating data to identify disproportionate pass rates. This conversation posed more questions than it answered. While the magnitude of the ways that racism can show up in our classrooms are many and the challenges with the Criminal Justice system seem daunting, professionals working within the Criminal Justice system seem daunting,

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professionals working within the Criminal Justice system, Emergency Management and Homeland Security cannot wait to interrogate how they can work towards racial justice. I am sure that many of you have been doing this work for a long time. Of you, I ask that you share your wisdom and keep doing this challenging work. For some, these may be new topics. Of you, I ask that you dive in. Our communities cannot afford you to wait. Start a reading group of your own. Educate yourself. Discuss how racism shows up in your own work and what you can do to stop it. Discuss how you can move towards the work of an anti-racist. This work is vital and synonymous with creating safe and just communities for all.



NEW DIRECTOR FOR CENTER OF EXCELLENCE – INFORMATION AND COMPUTING TECHNOLOGY (ICT): WELCOME BRIANNA ROCKENSTIRE!

The Center of Excellence for ICT provides research and reports on industry trends, current and future workforce demand, industry perceptions of the CTC system and its graduates, and emerging technology developments.

Additionally, the Center works to create information, awareness, and stimulate enrollments in IT programs across the state's community and technical college's system through marketing and advertising campaigns.

Brianna Rockenstire is the new Executive Director for the Center of Excellence for Information and Computing Technology. In this role, she hopes to create new opportunities for IT students and industry partners across the state. Brianna's experience in higher education includes both external and student-facing work – creating strategic engagement plans for companies in the technology and engineering fields, facilitating internship opportunities for information technology students, increasing awareness of Bachelor of Applied Science (BAS) degrees, and managing a scholarship program. Most recently, she served as director of industry outreach for AppConnect NW, a National Science Foundation-funded project that built new tech industry partnerships on behalf of software and application development BAS programs at seven



community and technical colleges in the greater Seattle area. Brianna worked closely with faculty leadership to connect students to professional opportunities and align curriculum with industry demand. Before starting her career in education, Brianna worked in non-profits and event planning.

Brianna was born and raised in Washington, attended Washington State University, and enjoys cooking, reading, and spending time outdoors.

To connect with Brianna, you can reach her via email at Brianna.rockenstire@bellevuecollege.edu and visit the Center's website <https://www.coewa.com/ict>.

WORKSHOP ANNOUNCEMENT! - MENTAL WELLNESS AND RESILIENCY: ADJUSTING TO LIFE AND ADDRESSING CHALLENGES DURING TURBULENT TIMES



Feeling fatigued? Are you more impatient than normal? Are you finding it hard to balance working from or just being at home? You're not alone. These are all signs that your mental wellness is being challenged by events around you (e.g., COVID-19, political and civil unrest, significant life change). As we hope for life to go back to "normal", understanding how uncertainty and dramatic change affects our daily lives can help us to combat stress and other negative impacts. This course will provide an overview of stress and its' effects on us and others around us. Specific evidence-based techniques will be provided to improve resiliency within ourselves or our organizations.

Outcomes

At the conclusion of this training, students will be able to:

- Define Stress and identify its' effects on our body and mind.
- Develop at least 3 evidence-based methods for dealing with stress and increasing mental wellness in themselves and others.

Course Date and Time:

- November 4, 2020 - 3p.m. to 4:30p.m.
- Register for this course date [here](#)
- November 10, 2020 - 9:00a.m. to 10:30 a.m.
- Register for this course date [here](#)

Registration for this course is free!

Note: This is a 1.5-hour course, offered on two different days and at different times.

Instructor Bio

Curry Mayer has been teaching college level courses for the last 10 years. She is an emergency management professional with over 25 years' experience. She has a bachelor's degree in Communications and a master's degree in Education. As an Emergency Manager, Ms. Mayer is constantly striving to help individuals, communities, and organizations learn how to become more resilient and just what that means in different situations and environments.

For more information, contact Kellie Hale at khale@pierce.ctc.edu

