



New York State Teachers' Retirement System

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NYSTRS.org

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June 17, 2020

Colleagues,

Juneteenth is the oldest known celebration commemorating the ending of slavery in the United States of America. Although the Emancipation Proclamation was effective January of 1863 it was not until two years later on June 19, 1865, that many enslaved people in Texas finally learned they were free. For many Black Americans this day is treated as their Independence Day. Juneteenth is a day to celebrate African American freedom and achievement while encouraging self-development and respect for all cultures.

Friday, June 19, 2020 will be a holiday for NYSTRS employees. As we stand with our Black family in these troubling times, I ask that you take this day to celebrate and learn about the cultural significance of this day.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be a stylized 'R' or similar character, followed by a horizontal line.