1965: Civil rights workers marching for voting rights are stopped at the Pettus Bridge by police who use tear gas, clubs, and whips against them. Dubbed “Bloody Sunday.”
1965 Mexican American labor leader, Cesar Chavez, organizes the United Farm Workers to strike and change the terrible working conditions of migrant workers.
1967: Congress passes the Voting Rights Act of 1965, outlawing poll taxes, literacy tests, and other measures used to prevent blacks and Latinos from voting, thus making it possible for Southern Blacks and Latinos to register to vote.
1968: In *Loving v. Virginia* the Supreme Court rules that prohibiting interracial marriage is unconstitutional, forcing 16 states that still banned interracial marriage to change their laws.
1968: Martin Luther King Jr. is murdered by racist James Earl Ray. African Americans riot in 168 towns and cities across the United States.
1969: Stonewall riots broke out in Greenwich Village New York, because of police brutality against the gay community, sparking the gay liberation movement, by founding the Gay Liberation Front and the Gay Activist Alliance.
1970: President Johnson (who is TX State Alumnus) signs the Civil Rights Act of 1968, outlawing discrimination in financing, sale and rental of housing.
1988: Congress overrides veto by President Reagan to pass the Civil Rights Restoration Act expanding anti-discrimination laws to private institutions that receive federal funds.
1990: President Bush signs the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 which prohibits private employers, state and local governments, employment agencies and labor unions from discriminating against qualified individuals with disabilities.
1991: After two years of debate, President Bush reverses his decision and signs the Civil Rights Act of 1991, strengthening existing civil rights laws and providing for damages in cases of intentional employment discrimination.
2001: The U.S.A. PATRIOT Act is passed by Congress with virtually no debate, giving the federal government the power to detain suspected “terrorists” for an unlimited time period without access to legal representation. Over 1000 Arab, Muslim, and South Asian men are detained in secret locations.
2002: The Supreme Court upholds the use of race as one of many factors in admissions to colleges and universities.
2009: Sonia Sotomayor becomes the first Latina Supreme Court Justice
2010: “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” is repealed giving our gay service men and women in the military the right to serve openly.
These are some, not all, of the key historical factors which have impacted diversity in the United States.

As you can see, many of the historical facts in the US which have impacted diversity, such as race relations, women’s issues, the gay community, the military, farm workers, and others, have come through struggle, war, protest, pain and a great deal of controversy. Today we continue to experience some of the impacts from our turbulent past.

This is one of the reasons why there tends to be some discomfort when we try to discuss things like race, gender, sexual orientation, class, ethnicity, culture, religion and other aspects of diversity.
Diversity sometimes is challenging and/or difficult because:

- Our backgrounds are unique and different even though we are all in the same country
- Even though we are peers we may each have different political views
- Some people have different sexual and gender identities and we may not understand this
- Our history as a diverse nation came about through struggle, war, protest, pain, and controversy
#3. How we show it
How we value diversity

- Seek opportunities to interact with those who are different than you are
We celebrate and sponsor...

- Mama’s Kitchen
- Hispanic Heritage Month
- Black History Month
- Native American History Month
- Women’s History Month
- Bobcat Ball
- Interfaith Receptions
Seek opportunities to gain awareness of other culture

Challenge derogatory remarks or comments.
How we value diversity

- Participate in student organizations
  - Muslim Student Association
  - Japanese Language Culture Club
  - Harambee Hip Hop Dance Crew
  - Interfaith Advisory Council
  - The Loud Crowd
  - Hillel Jewish Student Organization
  - Christians on Campus
  - American Sign Language Club
  - Hip Hop Congress
Texas State Supports Diversity of Sexual Orientation and Gender Identities

- **LAMBDA:** a socially based student organization for our LGBT students at Texas State

- **BEA:** a politically-oriented student organization which supports and promotes the political concerns and ideas of our LGBT students at Texas State

- **Allies:** a faculty and staff organization which provides training to members of the campus community who are interested in ensuring a safe campus and climate which supports the Texas State LGBT community.
How we value diversity

- Participate in student organizations
How we value diversity

- Participate in student organizations
How we value diversity

- Make friends across groups, communities, identities and lines

- Seek knowledge and understand rather than make assumptions
We value diversity at Texas State

Our history has made diversity both complex and challenging

We don’t just value diversity....we show it
THE GOLD CARD

FIRST SIX WEEKS ACTIVITIES

www.vpsa.txstate.edu/first6weeks