

Proposal: Revising the Fall Calendar

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Rationale:

- The fall calendar as presently and historically constructed includes Columbus Day as a holiday.
- The Columbus Day holiday has two chief problems:
 - It requires a scheduling fix where we must teach a Monday schedule on a Tuesday, often leading to confusion.
 - It honors an historical figure whose reputation is not just dubious, it is horrific. Christopher Columbus does not deserve to have a day named in his honor, and certainly should not be celebrated by a Lasallian school.
 - Reflecting this, cities as large as Los Angeles have replaced Columbus Day with Indigenous People's Day.¹

Solution:

- We should cease having a day off on Columbus Day, and instead have a day off for Election Day.
- Providing a day off for Election Day would (1) solve the Registrar's need for a Tuesday holiday, (2) show the College's support for students of marginalized communities, and (3) affirm to our students, faculty, and staff that voting is important and that our democratic traditions are worthy of respect.

Proposed resolution:

Whereas the celebration of Columbus Day presents a genuine ethical dilemma due to the tremendous unease the holiday rightly causes students of central and south American descent,

And whereas the celebration of Columbus Day interferes with orderly scheduling of the academic calendar by requiring that a Monday class schedule be taught on a Tuesday,

And whereas our Lasallian heritage recognizes the worth of its students of all ethnic heritage and simultaneously the worth of democratic traditions of the United States,

The Manhattan College Senate resolves that at its next opportunity to compose the academic calendar the College will cease celebrating Columbus Day and schedule a day off for Election Day. This change is to become permanent.

¹ See <http://www.latimes.com/local/lanow/la-me-ln-indigenous-peoples-day-20170829-story.html>