



equity, justice & inclusion

A program of the **Department of Rehabilitation Science and Technology**
University of Pittsburgh • School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences

Welcome to our first Equity, Justice, & Inclusion newsletter of 2022! We hope everyone enjoyed their holidays and perhaps some much-needed time off. As always, January is a busy time as we kick-start the new year. New for this month, we'll also start sharing "Inclusion News," a segment on news and informative articles to help everyone stay informed!



Happy New Year!

Most of the western world celebrates New Year's Day on January 1st of the [Gregorian Calendar](#), leading us into the year 2022 CE ([Common Era](#)). Many different cultures recognize their own New Year's Days, however, often based on lunar or lunisolar calendars. We've discussed a few of them in previous EJI newsletters—do you recognize any of the following?

[Chinese New Year](#) - February 1, 2022

The first [new moon](#) between Jan. 21 and Feb. 20.

Months of the lunisolar [Chinese calendar](#) are dictated by events like the winter solstice and moon cycles. February 2022 will begin the year of the tiger in the [Chinese Zodiac](#). There is no universally accepted "year one" or "start" of the Chinese calendar.

[Islamic New Year](#) - July 30, 2022

First day of [Muharram](#), the first month of the lunar [Islamic calendar](#).

The Islamic calendar has 12 months based on lunar cycles. Thus, an Islamic year has only 354 or 355 solar days, so the date of the new year rotates around the Gregorian calendar.

We are currently in 1443 AH ([Anno Hegirae](#), "in the year of the [Hijra](#)"). The [Hijri year](#) started in 622 CE when the prophet Muhammad and his followers founded the first Muslim community.

[Jewish New Year – Rosh Hashanah](#) - September 26-27, 2022

The first day of [Tishrei](#), the first month of the lunisolar [Hebrew calendar](#).

We are currently in the year AM 5782 ([Anno Mundi](#), "from the creation of the world"). According to biblical texts, AM marks the creation of the world in the book of [Genesis](#).



January 2022

Inclusion News:



California School for the Deaf Makes History

For many Americans, fall and early spring is an exciting time of year: football season! American football is played by students of all ages, ranging from touch- and flag-football up to full contact. Have you ever considered how people with disabilities can play football, too?

One such example is the California School for the Deaf, Riverside. The CSDR “Cubs” are a varsity, [8-man](#) football team that competes in California’s [CIF-SS](#). After seven straight losing seasons leading up to this year, the Cubs started 2021 on an undefeated run that led them to the state championships. Though they ultimately fell in their final game, the team made history as the first deaf team to compete in California’s state championship.

In a final huddle with his team, head coach Keith Adams [signed](#) “You guys are on the map. A historical 12-1 [win-loss record].” Responding to discrimination the team has faced, tight end Christian Jimenez says “We’re just the same as you. The only thing we can’t do is hear. So please don’t look at us less than.”

For more, check out [ESPN’s feature story](#) on CSDR and their historic season.



USA WHEELCHAIR FOOTBALL LEAGUE

STRONGER EVERY DAY



Wheelchair Users Play Football, Too! Introducing: [USA Wheelchair Football League](#)

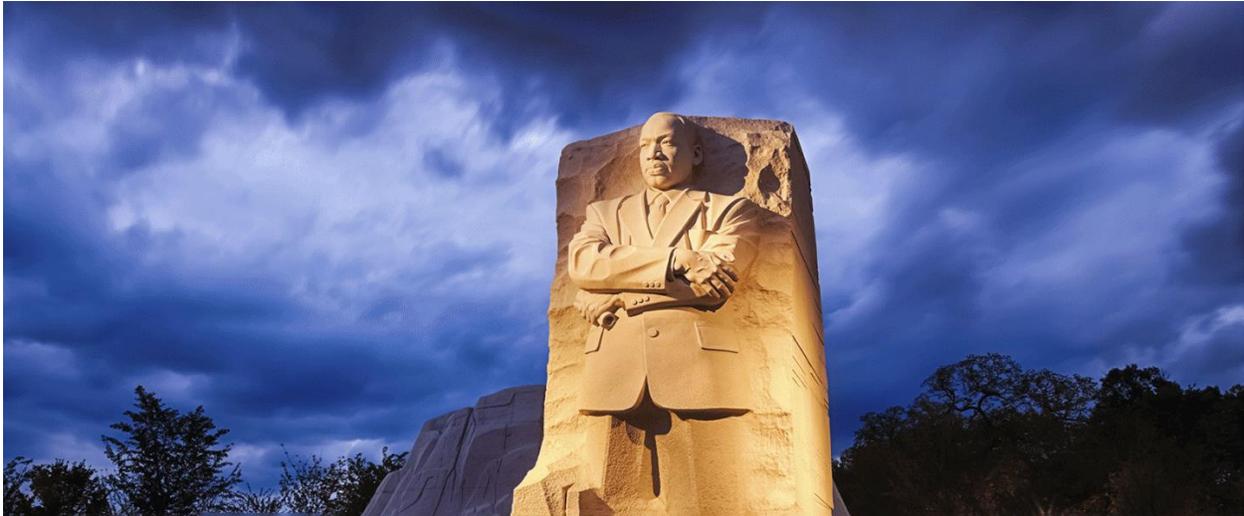
The newest sports league offered by [Move United](#) is [Wheelchair Football](#). Wheelchair football is played on a surface with the same dimensions as a basketball court. The rules are similar to those of stand-up American football, but all players use either manual or powered wheelchairs. Teams can advance the ball with either “passing” or “running” plays, and kickoffs and punts are performed by throwing the ball. Depending on the players’ classification level (similar to classification criteria for other adaptive sports), “tackles” are performed by touching an opponent’s chair or body with one hand, two hands, or part of your own chair.

The league currently has [nine teams](#) across the country; the nearest to the Pittsburgh area are Buffalo, NY, and Cleveland, OH. What’s more, the league is looking for interested parties to [start expansion teams](#), join the rules committee, or host tournaments in your area!

Visit the [league website](#) for more information.



January 2022



January 17: [Martin Luther King Jr. Day](#)

On the third Monday of January, we celebrate the life and activism of Martin Luther King Jr. Though the American [civil rights movement](#) is far too diverse to be credited to one individual, Dr. King's impact on the cause is undeniable.

Though Dr. King may be most known for his "I Have a Dream" speech during the [1963 March on Washington](#), his work in equity and justice extends far beyond that. In 1955, King organized the [bus boycott in Montgomery, AL](#), following the arrest of Rosa Parks. Years later, he organized the [1965 Selma to Montgomery marches](#). These marches fought for the rights of Black Americans to vote and were in response to the murder of Jimmie Lee Jackson, an activist who was shot by an Alabama state trooper during a peaceful voting rights march.

Throughout his life, Dr. King was a frequent target of anti-black policing and political pressure. One prominent example is [COINTELPRO](#), a covert and illegal domestic spying operation conducted by the FBI. Under this program, the Bureau bugged King's home, wiretapped his phones, and [made threats against him and his family](#). Despite these efforts, King continued to fight for civil rights until his tragic assassination in 1968.

The University of Pittsburgh's [Anti-Black Racism: History, Ideology, and Resistance](#) course offers insight into causes related to Dr. King and his advocacy, including a discussion on COINTELPRO and its relation to modern policing. All lectures in the course are recorded and can be viewed online.

This MLK Day, we challenge you to learn something new about the civil rights movement. How does this movement relate to contemporary efforts in [disability rights](#) and [LGBTQ+ liberation](#)? What lessons from history can we apply to our work in education and healthcare?



If you have questions for the committee, please don't hesitate to reach out. As always, we'd like to remind you of the [EJI Tip Line](#), where you can make accessibility requests or report concerns and suggestions. ***You can also use the Tip Line to submit ideas for future EJI Wall prompts!*** Thank you for joining us in this month's EJI newsletter.



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The mission of the Department of Rehabilitation Science and Technology's (RST) Equity, Justice and Inclusion Committee is to promote diversity, maintain accountability, and amplify the voices of disenfranchised persons. Through our efforts, we guarantee all department personnel the opportunity to succeed academically and professionally regardless of their background.



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