Juneteenth is the oldest national celebrated commemoration of the arrival of Union soldiers and Major General Gordon Granger to Galveston, Texas in 1865 with news of the end of slavery which had occurred in 1863 with President Abraham Lincoln’s issuing the Emancipation Proclamation. Granger announced the end of the Civil War and freedom for all who had been in bondage.

Date
June 19th of each year.

Greetings
Greet someone or a group by saying “Happy Juneteenth.”

Common Practices and Celebrations
• Red is a color that is seen everywhere during Juneteenth: Red soda water, strawberry pies, red velvet cake and red beans and rice.
• The classic color symbolizes blood lost during the struggle for emancipation.

Impact to U-M Community?
In 2020, Governor Gretchen Whitmer declared June 19 as Juneteenth Celebration Day in Michigan. 

U-M Campus Resources
• U-M Programs and Resources Addressing Issues Facing African Americans
• Anti-Racism Primer: What Can I Do?, U-M
• Maize Black Organizations, U-M

Information Sources
• History of Juneteenth, Allen Public Library
• Here’s The One Thing You Need To Know About Juneteenth And The Emancipation Of Black People, Essence

Happy Juneteenth!