

To: The Purdue University Community

From: Alysa Christmas Rollock
Vice President for Ethics and Compliance

Date: August 30, 2012

Subject: Religious, Ethnic, and Civic Observances

Purdue University is committed to maintaining a community that recognizes and values the inherent worth and dignity of every person. The University believes that diversity among its many members strengthens the institution, stimulates creativity, promotes the exchange of ideas, and enriches campus life.

I urge you to be sensitive to the fact that the scheduling of examinations, class assignments, meetings, and other significant events on certain holidays or days of religious observance may place some members of the University Community in a very difficult situation. Your cooperation in helping members of the Purdue Community observe their religious traditions is appreciated. Students requesting special consideration in scheduling will be expected to make their needs known to their course instructors in advance and be flexible in arranging alternative times to complete any assignments they might miss. The Diversity Resource Office will be distributing a Calendar of Religious, Ethnic, and Civic Observances for the 2012-2013 academic year. It is available at <http://www.purdue.edu/ethics/resources.html>.

We are approaching the most sacred time period in the Hebrew/Jewish calendar, The Days of Awe. This period commences with Rosh Hashanah (New Year's Day) on September 17-18 and concludes with Yom Kippur (Day of Atonement) on September 26, 2012. (Since Jewish holidays continue from sundown of one day to sundown of the concluding day, the holidays commence on the evening of September 16 and September 25, respectively.) On these very special days, observant Jews are prohibited from engaging in any activities that are likely to divert their attention from the solemnity of prayer and deep introspection. Thus, on Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, many students will not travel, write, watch television, listen to music, prepare foods, or do other things that may be deemed "work" for themselves or for others.

Thank you for your contribution to Purdue's celebration of diversity and its commitment to inclusivity.