

*A Resolution Supporting the Creation of a Campus-wide Provisional Land Acknowledgement,  
and to Respect the Legacy of Native Peoples.*

Presented on the 1st of April 2021

Sponsors: Kamali Clora

Co-Sponsors: Stuart Baum

**WHEREAS**, a land acknowledgment is a formal statement, often given orally at the beginning of organized events, celebrations, or activities, **AND**

**WHEREAS**, land acknowledgments serve to illuminate ongoing indigenous presence, as well as recognize and counter settler-colonial legacies of violence and land expropriation, **AND**

**WHEREAS**, the purpose of these statements is to show respect and honor the indigenous peoples that this land has been home to since time immemorial,<sup>1</sup> **AND**

**WHEREAS**, practicing acknowledgment can also raise awareness about histories that are often suppressed or forgotten,<sup>2</sup> **AND**

**WHEREAS**, to be consistent with the University's mission of diversity and inclusion, it is the responsibility of the University to disseminate knowledge of native peoples and their relation to the institution's history, **AND**

**WHEREAS**, through the institution of a land acknowledgement, many students would be exposed to the names of the traditional native inhabitants of the lands they are on, inspiring them to promote ongoing awareness and action,<sup>3</sup> **AND**

**WHEREAS**, other national and Michigan peer universities like Michigan State University, University of Michigan, Western Michigan University, Central Michigan University, Kalamazoo College, Grand Valley State University, University of Cincinnati, and Michigan Tech University all have land or territorial acknowledgements to some extent,<sup>4</sup> **AND**

**WHEREAS**, Wayne State University student organizations, faculty/staff affinity groups, academic units, and University personnel including the Wayne State Native American Student

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<sup>1</sup><https://nativegov.org/a-guide-to-indigenous-land-acknowledgment/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.google.com/amp/s/aihfsdirector.wordpress.com/2019/08/14/land-acknowledgments-the-importance-of-acknowledging-the-original-people-of-michigan/amp/>

<sup>3</sup> <https://usdac.us/nativeland>

<sup>4</sup>[https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1JRM874w42YYPahRMsls\\_8yCQfRFhSbPYFiPenLF49JY/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1JRM874w42YYPahRMsls_8yCQfRFhSbPYFiPenLF49JY/edit?usp=sharing)

Association (NASO), Native/Aboriginal Development Network (NDN) Learning Community, Joelle Joyner, (NASO President & NDN LC Member, Meherrin, Cherokee, and Blackfeet), Paige Williams, (NASO Vice-President & NDN LC Member, Anishnaabe), Alexis Estes (NASO member, Lakota), Dr. Kimberly Kleinhans (Alumni, NASO & NDN LC, Anishnaabe), David Pitawanakwat (Alumni, NASO & NDN LC, Anishnaabe), Kaela C. Harris (Alumni, NASO & NDN LC, Anishnaabe), Dr. Sandra M. Gonzales, Associate Professor Teacher Education (NASO Faculty advisor and NDN LC Coordinator, Lipan Apache & Mexican), Dr. Joanne Sobeck, Associate Dean for Research, School of Social Work (Advisory, NDN LC, Anishnaabe), Dr. Kirsten Carlson, Associate Professor of Law, Adjunct Professor of Political Science (Advisory, NDN LC), Dr. Michael Kral, Associate Professor, School of Social Work (Advisory, NDN LC), Dr. Daniel Harrison, Maritime Archaeologist, Department of Anthropology, Nickole Fox, Community member, Cherokee, Raeanne Madison, Community member, Anishnaabe & Ojibwe/Mexica, Krystyna Yopez, Community member, Anishnaabe & Walpole Island First Nations. and the Office of Multicultural Student Engagement (OMSE) all have endorsed and contributed to this resolution.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Wayne State University Student Senate calls upon the University to allow the following acknowledgment to be read or played through audio recording at public events facilitated by students, faculty, and staff as they choose:

*Wayne State University rests on Waawiyaataanong (Waa-we-yaa-tih-nong), also referred to as Detroit, the ancestral and contemporary homeland of the Three Fires Confederacy. These sovereign lands were granted by the Ojibwe (Oh-jib-way), Odawa (Oh-daa-waa), Potawatomi (Pow-tuh-waa-tuh-mee), and Wyandot nations, in 1807, through the Treaty of Detroit. Wayne State University affirms Indigenous sovereignty and honors all tribes with a connection to Detroit. With our Native neighbors, WSU can advance educational equity and promote a better future for the earth and all people, AND*

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Wayne State University Student Senate supports the creation of this provisional land acknowledgement, and for it to be sustained in perpetuity, **AND**

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Wayne State University Student Senate calls upon the University to state the above acknowledgement in the Commencement program booklet, as well as, open Convocation, and the Spirit of Community Awards with the reading of the acknowledgement, **AND**

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Wayne State University Student Senate calls upon the University to highlight this acknowledgement on Indigenous Peoples' Day to bring awareness to the campus community, **AND**

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Wayne State University Student Senate calls upon the University to create a webpage on the University website in an accessible format for this land acknowledgement to be featured, and for such a webpage to be reachable from the homepage within three clicks or less, **AND**

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Wayne State University Student Senate calls upon the University to financially support the development of an engraved plaque of the land acknowledgment to be placed at an approved central campus location, **AND**

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Wayne State University Student Senate calls upon the University to change the name of the Mad Anthony's convenience store because of Anthony Wayne's violent injustices toward tribal nations for which he earned that nickname.<sup>5</sup>

**AND FINALLY BE IT ORDERED**, that the Wayne State University Student Senate will circulate this resolution to all relevant outlets, including the University President, the University Provost, the members of the Board of Governors, the President of the Wayne State University Academic Senate, and The South End student newspaper.

X \_\_\_\_\_  
Riya Chhabra  
President

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Marcella Eid  
Vice President

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<sup>5</sup> <https://www.history.com/topics/native-american-history/battle-of-fallen-timbers>