



Recognition of Indigenous Peoples Day

A Proclamation on Indigenous Peoples Day

Division of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

The Native American and Indigenous Working Group

October 14, 2024

WHEREAS, Indigenous Peoples Day provides the opportunity to remember the First Peoples, to reflect on the losses they suffered, but also to see the strength, resilience and major contributions they continue to make for all of America. Now is the time to commit to learning their histories, engaging with their communities and helping to make visible their presence.

WHEREAS, the James Madison University (the university) is built on the homelands and villages of the Indigenous Peoples of this region, the Monacan, Patowomeck, and Haudenosaunee First Peoples, who were the first inhabitants and caretakers of this land; and

WHEREAS, it is our collective responsibility to recognize and honor the land that is currently home to James Madison University is on Indigenous lands that were home to Indigenous communities for millennia and who were members of a variety of Native American Nations; and

WHEREAS, the university recognizes and values the many contributions made to technology, medicine, science, philosophy and arts in our society and our community through Indigenous Peoples' history, culture, knowledge and labor; and

WHEREAS, the idea of Indigenous Peoples Day was first proposed in 1977 by the International Conference on Discrimination Against the Indigenous Population in the Americas

NOW, THEREFORE, the JMU Native American and Indigenous Working Group (NAIWG) and the Division of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion do hereby recognize the second Monday of October Indigenous Peoples Day at James Madison University and recommend its observance to all members of the university community. We hereby proclaim today Monday, October 14th, 2024, as Indigenous Peoples Day in acknowledgement of the Indigenous Peoples, the original stewards of this land, and further proclaim that we, as the community James Madison University should work to promote recognition of Indigenous Peoples for their many contributions.

