

## **A Resolution to develop an official Land Acknowledgment for use at The Ohio State University**

Synopsis: To advance greater inclusion and fulfill the university's anti-racism efforts, the Senate Diversity Committee and Senate Council on Student Affairs seek the development and adoption of an official land acknowledgment by The Ohio State University.

WHEREAS a land acknowledgement, typically a verbal statement made at the beginning of an event or meeting or a written statement, such as on websites or in email signatures, has become a standard practice for diversity, equity, and inclusion in higher education; and

WHEREAS The Ohio State University's Vision is to be the model 21<sup>st</sup>-century, land grant, research, urban, community-engaged institution university; and

WHEREAS land acknowledgments create a more inclusive and honest environment for Indigenous and Native American members of The Ohio State University community and guests; and

WHEREAS acknowledging the ways that The Ohio State University benefited from and continues to benefit from the forced and systemic removal of Native American and Indigenous people provides a step toward reconciliation of the land grant mission of the university with its land grant history; and

WHEREAS the use of a land acknowledgment is a step from The Ohio State University toward supporting tribal sovereignty, remaining accountable, furthering advocacy and allyship, and creating ongoing relationships with Native American and Indigenous communities; and

WHEREAS a land acknowledgment can only be developed through active collaboration between The Ohio State University and Native American and Indigenous communities forcibly removed from lands across the United States to fund The Ohio State University; and

WHEREAS members of The Ohio State University community, from the Newark Earthworks Center, American Indian Studies faculty and staff, and Stepping Up & Stepping Out: The Land-Grant Truth and Reconciliation Project, have the expertise and ability to establish and build upon existing relationships with Native American and Indigenous communities forcibly removed from lands across the United States to fund The Ohio State University but are not currently tasked with collaborating with these Native American and Indigenous communities to develop a land acknowledgment as part of their official responsibilities; and

WHEREAS members of the Ohio State University community, notably Stepping Up & Stepping Out: The Land-Grant Truth and Reconciliation Project and the Newark Earthworks Center, have completed work, funded through The Ohio State University's Seed Fund for Racial Justice, Global Arts & Humanities Discovery Theme, and Linkage and Leverage Grant, that can serve as a foundation for a university-wide Land Acknowledgement; and

WHEREAS members of Native American and Indigenous communities cannot be expected to volunteer their time without compensation in service of the creation of a land acknowledgment for The Ohio State University;

NOW THEREFORE

BE IT RESOLVED that the University Senate requests the President and the Board of Trustees create and financially support formation of a commission of experts from The Ohio State University and Native American and Indigenous communities to develop an official Land Acknowledgment for use by members of The Ohio State University community to affirm an inclusive and welcoming environment for Indigenous and Native American peoples, acting as a further step toward strengthening advocacy and allyship with Native American and Indigenous communities.