



INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' DAY October 12, 2020

Emory recognizes Indigenous Peoples' Day

Dear members of the Emory community,

On October 12, we will join communities throughout the nation to recognize Indigenous Peoples' Day and honor the resilience, history, traditions, and cultures of Indigenous and Native American peoples.

Emory's recognition includes consideration of the first inhabitants of the land that our campus now calls home — a land whose history can be traced to the Muscogee Creek Nation. As the Muscogee Creek community continues to confront systemic racism, and as our university acknowledges its own difficult histories, we believe it is important to honor those faculty, staff, and students who create vibrant spaces of inclusion on our campus for Native and Indigenous voices. Their work is defining a new legacy at Emory — one that empowers those whose talents and gifts were overlooked and marginalized for generations.

We are proud that, for the first time at Emory, we are formally recognizing Indigenous Peoples' Day and acknowledging its significance within our community and beyond.

In celebration of this observance, on Monday, October 12, at 4 p.m. (via Zoom) Professor of English Craig Womack (Creek) will chair a panel discussion entitled [McGirt v. Oklahoma: Understanding the Implications of the Recent Supreme Court Decision Across Native America](#), which will explore the impact of the recent landmark decision regarding the Creek Nation for Oklahoma tribal nations and other parts of Indian Country.

We encourage our community to spend time reflecting on our history and to consider ways to advance human rights and social justice at Emory and in the world.

Sincerely,

Gregory L. Fennes
President

Jan Love
Interim Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs

Traditions of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation



A Reflection

Beth Michel, MPH
Tohono O'odham/Navajo/Hopi
Associate Dean
Office of Undergraduate Admission

Debra Vidali, PhD
USA, from occupied Haudenosaunee territory
Associate Professor
Department of Anthropology

Our/the Indigenous communities and their allies are standing [in solidarity](#) with the Black Lives Matter movement. It is important to recognize that this powerful uprising to dismantle systemic racism has supported Indigenous peoples' struggles and visibility, and has signaled the [crucial intertwined history](#) of Indigenous land dispossession and the enslavement of Africans and African-descended peoples in the Americas. Some significant wins include initiatives to "unsettle" and "decolonize" [the curriculum](#), the [name change](#) of the NFL DC football team, and the toppling of numerous monuments across the United States of America.

The second Monday of October recognizes the invaluable contributions made by Indigenous nations, peoples, and people. It acknowledges the people who are the first inhabitants of the land that is present-day U.S., and their enduring nations and peoples. Across the United States, numerous higher education institutions, [over 100 cities and municipalities \(including South Fulton county here in Georgia\)](#), and [at least thirteen different states](#) have declared the second Monday of October as an official holiday, Indigenous Peoples' Day. We are deeply appreciative of the recent [decision](#) by Emory University President Fennes, Interim Provost Love, and the Emory leadership to officially recognize this day at our institution. In the United States, the movement to recognize Indigenous Peoples' Day began in the late 1980s as a counter-celebration to Columbus Day. We also wish to highlight that shortly after this, the United Nations designated August 9th as the [International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples](#).

Today, we wish to acknowledge that there are 574 Tribal Nations living side by side, or sharing land, with the United States. This represents over 6 million people. Emory University itself resides on land that was forcibly dispossessed by the US government from the Mvskoke/Muscogee Creek Nation in 1821, through the [First Treaty of Indian Springs](#). Emory was founded in 1836, just fifteen years after this treaty, during a period of sustained oppression, land dispossession, and forced relocation of Mvskoke/Muscogee (Creek) and Ani'yunwi'ya (Cherokee) people from Georgia and the Southeast. The [ultimate removals](#) of over 60,000 Indigenous people from this region to the area of present-day Oklahoma occurred during the genocidal period known as the Trail of Tears (1830-1838). Approximately 25% of the forcibly displaced Indigenous people died in route.

Today, the present-day [Muscogee \(Creek\) Nation](#) in Oklahoma is the fourth largest tribal nation in the U.S. with over 86,000 citizens. In 2019, Muscogee citizen [Joy Harjo](#) was named the 29th poet laureate of the United States. Here at Emory University, [Professor Craig Womack](#), who is also Muscogee, is an internationally acclaimed scholar in Native American literary studies and a talented musician. We owe an immense debt to the Mvskoke, Ani'yunwi'ya and other original peoples who have cared for and inhabited these lands, and to their descendants.

We want the important social justice momentum that is developing across our nation to extend to our campus and ensure that Indigenous voices and contributions are part of our intellectual practices every day, not just on October 12th. On this day we hope that the Emory community will join us in recognizing the resiliency and strength of Indigenous Peoples -- and especially our Native students -- in succeeding in an education system that was not designed for them, and one that they are working to decolonize for the enrichment and flourishing of us all.

We welcome the Emory University community to find more resources and statements at <https://scholarblogs.emory.edu/nae>

McGirt V. Oklahoma: Understanding the Implications of the Recent Supreme Court Decision Across Native America

MONDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2020, 4 - 5:30 PM

In celebration of Indigenous Peoples' Day, Emory University Professor of English Craig Womack (Creek) chairs a panel discussion titled "McGirt V. Oklahoma: Understanding the Implications of the Recent Supreme Court Decision Across Native America."

Sarah Deer (Creek), University of Kansas Department of Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies; Barbara Creel (Jemez Pueblo), University of New Mexico School of Law; and Justice Andrew Adams III (Creek), Muscogee Creek Nation Supreme Court; and Professor Womack will explore the implications of the decision regarding the Creek Nation for Oklahoma tribal nations and other parts of Indian Country.

Use the [ZOOM link here](#) to access the program.

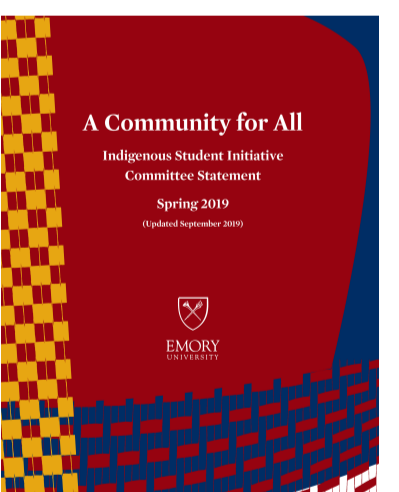
This lecture is made possible through the generous financial support of the Hightower Lecture Fund and is co-sponsored by the Native American and Indigenous Students Initiative, the Michael C. Carlos Museum, and the School of Law Health Law, Policy & Ethics Project.

Programs & Resources

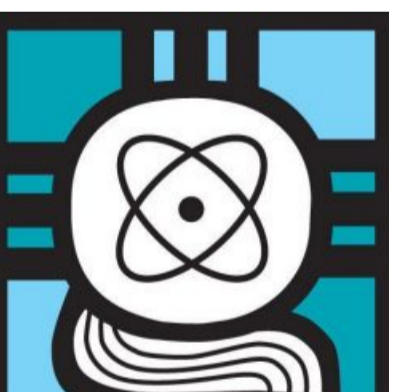


Native American Engagement at Emory

Emory scholarsblog, developed by Ilyah Bruffett (White Earth Nation) (C23), Kennedy Pete (Navajo Nation) (C24), Sierra Talavera-Brown (C23) (Navajo Nation), Klamath Henry (Shasta Tribe & Tuscarora of Haudenosaunee Confederacy) (C19), SJ Dillon (LGS), and Professor Debra Vidali (Anthropology).



A Community for All: Indigenous Student Initiative Committee Statement

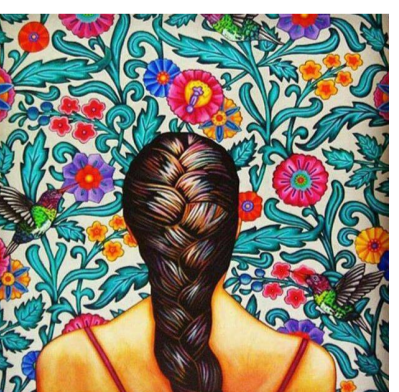


Society for the Advancement of Chicanos/Hispanics and Native Americans in STEM (SACNAS), Emory Chapter



Dancing with Synthetic Moccasins

(Klamath Henry's (C19) website for Emory student engagement)



Indigenous Peoples and Allies at Emory

(Facebook group)



Programs

Youth in Action: Conversations About Our Future

Mascots, Monuments and Memorialization
October 12, 2020 | 1:00 PM ET

Who is America?

A #NativeBook discussion series with Kaitlin Curtice and Twyla Baker
October 12, 2020 | 7:00 PM ET
Instagram Live

Celebrating Indigenous Peoples' Day — virtually

[NINE VIRTUAL EVENTS TO CELEBRATE INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' DAY](#)



Articles & Books

Indigenous Peoples' Day Toolkit

[Our History Is the Future: Standing Rock Versus the Dakota Access Pipeline, and the Long Tradition of Indigenous Resistance](#)
[An Indigenous Peoples' History of the United States \(REVISIONING HISTORY\)](#)

An Indigenous Peoples' History of the United States ([Emory Library](#))
[Decolonization is not a metaphor](#)
[Indigenous Ally Toolkit](#)

[A reading list to honor Indigenous Peoples' Day](#)
[Indigenous Peoples Day Reading List](#)
[Kids' Books That Share True Stories of Native Peoples](#)
[New Indigenous books available now](#)



Podcasts & Music

Indigenous In Plain Sight | Gregg Deal | TEDxBoulder

[Podcasts by and About Native Americans](#)
[This Land](#)

[Tohono O'odham Young Voices](#)
[ALL MY RELATIONS](#)
[Toasted Sister Podcast](#)
[National Indigenous Peoples' Day Playlist](#)