



The State University of New York
Student Assembly

Resolution 1516-115
Sustainability Committee

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RESOLUTION 1516-115

TO: Members of the General Assembly
FROM: Zachary Beaudoin, Chair of Sustainability
DATE: April 15th 2016
SUBJECT: Indigenous Peoples' Day

Action Requested

SUNY to celebrate Indigenous Peoples' Day in exchange for Columbus Day in order to recognize the rich history and culture of the Indigenous people of New York State.

Resolution

I recommend that the Student Assembly of the Student Assembly of the State University of New York (SUNY SA) adopt the following resolution:

Whereas there are over 12 Native American tribes that originated in New York and many more that later migrated to various areas;

Whereas today there are eight federally recognized Native American tribes in New York State;

Whereas many State University of New York campuses stand on land once inhabited by the Haudenosaunee people;

Whereas SUNY-ESF recognizes and celebrates that their main campus sits on lands once inhabited by the Onondaga Nation;

Whereas SUNY has many campuses across the state named after Native American tribes including Cayuga, Mohawk, Oneonta, Onondaga, Oswego, and many more;

Whereas a great deal of New York State counties, waterways, and municipalities also have roots from Native Americans;

Whereas Indigenous Peoples' Day is a holiday that has the scope to serve in an educational and celebratory role in regards to all Indigenous Americans;

Whereas the cities of Berkeley, California, St. Paul, Minnesota, Albuquerque, New Mexico, Olympia, Washington, and Seattle, Washington have all made declarations which have reconstituted Columbus Day as Indigenous Peoples' Holiday;

Whereas community and student organizations at the University of California, Cornell University, Tufts University, and SUNY ESF, amongst others, have passed resolutions advocating for the celebration of Indigenous Peoples' Day;

Whereas many historians have called for the universal update to the history books in order to eliminate the misinformation surrounding Columbus Day;

Resolved that the Student Assembly of the State University of New York call on SUNY to adopt the second Monday in October as Indigenous Peoples' Day in order to preserve, celebrate, and cherish the history and presence of Indigenous Americans;

Resolved through the adoption of Indigenous Peoples' Day we ask SUNY campuses to shine light on the rich Indigenous cultures that surround and make up our campuses;

Resolved that Student Assembly of the Student Assembly of the State University of New York call on each campus include annual educational programming facilitated by the Chief Diversity Office to coincide with Indigenous Peoples' Day;

Resolved that Student Assembly of the Student Assembly of the State University of New York calls on each campus' Chief Academic Officer to add "Indigenous Peoples' Day" as the second Monday in October to the future academic calendars;

Resolved that Student Assembly of the Student Assembly of the State University of New York call on each SUNY campus seek to promote and facilitate further courses on Native American History and culture as part of the general education diversity requirement;

Resolved that Student Assembly of the Student Assembly of the State University of New York calls on each campus to undertake additional initiatives to celebrate and educate our students and communities about the indigenous people in our community on the model of SUNY ESF;

Resolved that the Student Assembly of the State University of New York shall forward copies of this Resolution to Governor Andrew M. Cuomo, Lt. Governor Kathleen C. Hochul, the members of the New York State Legislature, the SUNY Board of Trustees, SUNY Chancellor Zimpher, University Faculty Senate, Faculty Council of Community Colleges, SUNY Campus Presidents, SUNY student governing bodies, and all other parties deemed necessary and proper.