

Purpose of Land Acknowledgement Statement

A land acknowledgment is a formal statement that recognizes and respects the original inhabitants of the land. It makes visible the Indigenous communities who experienced death, dispossession, displacement, and trauma. Land Acknowledgement Statements foster greater understanding of land rights and the truth about our history. This Statement serves to raise awareness and celebrate the historic and sustained presence of Native peoples who protected and cared for the land that we benefit from today. It also provides a pathway to strengthen meaningful, sustainable, and reciprocal relationships with Indigenous communities. The SIUS Statement can be made at the beginning of lectures, ceremonies, and public gatherings.

SIUS Land Acknowledgement Statement

The Southern Illinois University System respectfully acknowledges the Indigenous peoples and lands on which our colleges reside. We exist on and serve regions that includes the traditional homelands and territories of The Illinois Confederacy, including the Cahokia, Kaskaskia, Michigamea, Peoria, and Tamaroa; and the Kiikaapoi (Treaty of Edwardsville, 1819), Myaamia, Aakiiwaki (Sauk), Meskwaki (Fox), Ho-Chunk (Winnebago), Kaw, Missouriia, Quapaw, Ponca, Omaha, Osage, Onödowá'ga (Seneca), o-ga-xpa ma-zhoⁿ, Očhéthi Šakówinj, and others. We are honored and grateful to reside on Native land. We are committed in word and deed to enhancing relationships, equity, and the rights of Indigenous communities. We are resolved to strengthen their sovereignty and self-determination to protect and preserve their language, culture, spiritual traditions, and relationships with land and people. The following initiatives are new and existing strategies to support Indigenous peoples and advance research and knowledge about Indigenous cultures and histories:

- Preservation and Care for Native American Cultural Items and Sacred Objects
- Native American Heritage Month Programs and Events
- Native American Studies Programs at [SIUE](#) and [SIUC](#)
- Additional investment in the [Indigenous Knowledge and Sustainability Conference](#) and other educational programming
- The development of more intentional pathways for Indigenous students' enrollment at SIU
- The establishment of an endowed scholarship

Pronunciations:

- Cahokia
 - [How to pronounce Cahokia | HowToPronounce.com](#)
- Ho-Chunk (Winnebago),
 - [How to pronounce Hochunk | HowToPronounce.com](#)
- Kaskaskia (Kahs-KAHS-kee-ah)
 - [How to pronounce Kaskaskia | HowToPronounce.com](#)
- Kaw
 - [How to pronounce kaw | HowToPronounce.com](#)

- Kiikaapoi (Kickapoo)
 - [How to pronounce Kiikaapoi | HowToPronounce.com](#)
- Myaamia
 - [How to pronounce myaamia | HowToPronounce.com](#)
- Meskwaki (Fox)
 - [How to pronounce Meskwaki | HowToPronounce.com](#)
- Michigamea
 - [How to pronounce MichiGamea | HowToPronounce.com](#)
- Missouriia
 - [How to pronounce Missouriia | HowToPronounce.com](#)
- Očhéthi Šakówiŋ,
 - [How to pronounce Očhéthi Šakówiŋ | HowToPronounce.com](#)
- Omaha
 - [How to pronounce Omaha | HowToPronounce.com](#)
- Osage, Onödowá'ga (Seneca),
 - [How to pronounce osage | HowToPronounce.com](#)
- Peoria
 - [How to pronounce Peoria | HowToPronounce.com](#)
- Ponca
 - [How to pronounce Ponca | HowToPronounce.com](#)
- Quapaw
 - [How to pronounce Quapaw | HowToPronounce.com](#)
- Aakiiwaki (Sauk)
 - [How to pronounce Sauk | HowToPronounce.com](#)
- Tamaroa
 - [How to pronounce Tamaroa | HowToPronounce.com](#)

Resources to learn more:

[AILA - American Indian Library Association \(ailanet.org\)](#)

[All My Relations Podcast on Apple Podcasts](#)

[American Indians in Children's Literature \(AICL\) \(americanindiansinchildrensliterature.blogspot.com\)](#)

[Anthropology | Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History \(si.edu\)](#)

[Indigenous and Tribal Sovereignty - Climate Justice Alliance](#)

[medialNDIGENA – Interactive Indigenous Insight](#)

[Native American Heritage Month \(SIUE\)](#)

[National Museum of the American Indian](#)

[Native Peoples of North America \(mountainscholar.org\)](#)

[The Henceforward](#)

[The impact of COVID-19 on Native American communities – Harvard Gazette](#)

[SIUC celebrates Native American Heritage Month](#)