



Faculty Council of Community Colleges

Resolution in Support of Indigenous Peoples' Day

ASA1: 2017 – 2018

Passed on November 4, 2017

WHEREAS in 1977 the International Conference on Discrimination against Indigenous Populations in the Americas began discussing the replacement of Columbus Day with Indigenous Peoples' Day; and

WHEREAS there is growing recognition and understanding in the United States that Columbus' "Discovery of America" is insulting to indigenous peoples and directly contrary to the fact that a way of life for indigenous people was irrevocably impacted with the arrival of the first European immigrants to the Americas; and

WHEREAS since 1992 more than 58 United State municipalities including the states of Minnesota, Vermont, and Alaska have chosen to celebrate Indigenous Peoples' Day instead of Columbus Day; and

WHEREAS in New York State there are eight federally recognized Native American tribes; and

WHEREAS many of our SUNY campuses reside on land once inhabited by the Haudenosaunee people; and

WHEREAS SUNY is committed to creating campus communities that are inclusive, diverse and representative of all people; and

WHEREAS SUNY campuses have recognized the importance of this matter and have created resolutions supporting an "Indigenous Peoples' Day", and no longer recognize Columbus day on their school calendars; and

WHEREAS the Student Assembly of SUNY unanimously passed resolution 1516-115, "Indigenous Peoples' Day" on April 16, 2016; and

WHEREAS the University Faculty Senate passed resolution to support "Indigenous Peoples' Day" on October 21, 2017;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Faculty Council of Community Colleges (FCCC) endorses and supports the UFS Resolution and SUNY Student Assembly resolution 1516-115, “Indigenous Peoples’ Day”; and

BE IT RESOLVED that the FCCC requests that SUNY Chancellor encourages campuses rename on their respective campus calendars Columbus Day as Indigenous Peoples’ Day; and

BE IT RESOLVED that SUNY faculty broadly engage in discussions about and around Indigenous Peoples’ Day to further SUNY’s commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion as stated in the BOT Resolution of September 10th 2015.

Background

UN Chronicle: The Magazine of the United Nations, September 2007,
<https://unchronicle.un.org/article/discrimination-against-indigenous-peoples-latin-american-context>

Daily News: “Columbus Day Changing to Indigenous Peoples Day”, October 10, 2016,
<http://www.nydailynews.com/life-style/columbus-day-changing-indigenous-people-day-article-1.2825082>

SUNY Student Assembly, Resolution, #1516-115, “Indigenous Peoples’ Day”, April 16, 2016,
<http://sunysa.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/1516-115Indigenous-Peoples-Day-1.pdf>

University at Albany, SUNY, Student Association Senate resolution #S.1516-106R, “Indigenous Peoples’ Day”, February 10, 2016,www.albany.edu/sasenate/docs1516/1516-106.docx

ESF Undergraduate Association resolution 1.2015, passed October 15, 2015. (Web link to be added shortly).

SUNY Board of Trustees’ Resolution on Diversity, September 10, 2015.
<https://www.suny.edu/about/leadership/board-of-trustees/meetings/webcastdocs/Reso%20Tab%2005%20-%20Diversity,%20Equity,%20and%20Inclusion%20Policy.pdf>