

RESOLUTION at the Council for Equity and Justice
For
designation of the second Monday in October as “Indigenous People’s Day”
at William Paterson University of New Jersey

WHEREAS “Indigenous Peoples’ Day” was first proposed in 1977, by a delegation of Native Nations to the United Nations International Conference on Discrimination against Indigenous Populations in the Americas;

WHEREAS President Biden issued a proclamation on October 8, 2021, for people to observe the second Monday on October as Indigenous People’s Day;

WHEREAS scholarship has documented the detailed history of wars, genocide, slavery, rapes, torture, forced labor, removal and displacement of millions of native Americans and Africans in the Americas due to colonization since 1492;

WHEREAS historical and archaeological scholarship has conservatively estimated that the Indigenous populations in the Americas (including the Caribbean) was reduced from about 75 million circa 1492 (about 15 million in the territory north of Mexico, and about 60 million to its south) to less than 5 million in a period of four centuries – a loss of about 70 million Indigenous people;

WHEREAS historical and archeological scholarship has conservatively estimated that the African populations who were enslaved and brought to the Americas (including the Caribbean) between 1525 and 1866 numbered about 12.5 million of which about 2 million did not survive the Middle Passage;

WHEREAS scholarship has documented through archival evidence such as personal diaries, official communiques, and travel writings, the clear intents and subsequent actions of colonizers to expropriate resources, pillage, destroy existing civilizations, capture, enslave, rape, and torture Indigenous and African peoples;

WHEREAS William Paterson University is a minority serving institution supporting a very diverse student population that has increasingly demanded a more inclusive university;

Now therefore be it

RESOLVED that the Council for Equity and Justice—

1. Seeks the official designation of the second Monday of October as “Indigenous People’s Day” at William Paterson University of New Jersey and the same to be properly reflected in the University’s Academic Calendar;
2. Acknowledges, honors, and observes Indigenous People’s Day celebrated on campus;
3. Urges the University to create awareness through signage, policy, syllabus, and programming on campus and an official land acknowledgment;
4. Urges the University to institute continuing support for Native peoples on campus and in the communities served by William Paterson University of New Jersey