

*Some institutions may require land acknowledgements or provide suggested language for them. If you are unsure of whose land your institution is located on, you can use this tool to find out: <https://native-land.ca/>. While land acknowledgments themselves are not sufficient actionable support for Indigenous nations, they set an important precedent of reflexivity and critical engagement with justice issues.*

### **Marc Brasof, Arcadia University**

The Lenape, whose name means “the original people,” are the first caretakers of the land upon which Arcadia University/Beaver College currently sits, and we continue to occupy. The Lenape people are victims of colonialism, genocide, and forced relocation. Therefore, we recognize the continued perseverance of the Lenape people through their adversity; and we honor their historical legacy and vibrant culture which continues to thrive today. We are committed to collaborating with the Lenape, as neighbors, partners, and friends in caretaking this land. (Approved by the University in 2022)

### **Sarah Eckert, Eastern University**

The main campus of Eastern University stands on the land of the Lenape Indian tribe, the original inhabitants of eastern Pennsylvania. This course and instructor recognizes and pays respect to honor the caretakers of this land from time immemorial until now, and into the future. We encourage students to review resources from <https://landback.org/> for more information. *Adapted from Bryn Mawr College*

### **Leigh Forbes, Gannon University**

Gannon’s School of Education operates on the ancestral territory of the Erie, Seneca, and the Haudenosaunee (ho-dee-no-SHOW-nee) Confederacy. Much of the area was seized by the United States in 1784 through the *Six Nations of New York Treaty*, a cession agreement. However, the “Triangle Lands,” a section which includes the City of Erie, was the subject of multiple illegal land negotiations between the Haudenosaunee Confederacy, Pennsylvania, and the federal government. Not until 1792, did the US federal government sell (illegally) the contested Triangle Lands to Pennsylvania for 75¢ per acre. Loss of the Triangle Lands deprived the Haudenosaunee of their heritage lands and privileged colonists with access to the shores of Lake Erie and the riches of the land.

To help us develop a deeper understanding of the Indigenous peoples who came before us, I will provide opportunities to examine colonization, forced removals, and the erasure of native communities. Acknowledging the experiences of Indigenous peoples will help us recognize that America’s story starts with their story. I hope you will join me in this ongoing commitment to cultural understanding.

### **Ashley Patterson, Penn State University**

The Pennsylvania State University campuses are located on the original homelands of the Erie, Haudenosaunee (Seneca, Cayuga, Onondaga, Oneida, Mohawk, and Tuscarora), Lenape (Delaware Nation, Delaware Tribe, Stockbridge-Munsee), Shawnee (Absentee, Eastern, and Oklahoma), Susquehannock, and Wahzhazhe (Osage) Nations. As a land grant institution, we

acknowledge and honor the traditional caretakers of these lands and strive to understand and model their responsible stewardship. We also acknowledge the longer history of these lands and our place in that history.

### **Rochelle Peterson-Ansari, LaSalle University**

La Salle University stands on part of the ancient homeland and traditional territory of the Lenape people. We pay respect to Lenape peoples past, present, and future and their continuing presence in the homeland and throughout the Lenape diaspora. You can find more information about the Lenape, territories and more specific resources for tribes in Pennsylvania and bordering states at <https://native-land.ca/maps/territories/lenape/>. You can also use this tool to find out more about traditional lands of Indigenous nations at <https://native-land.ca/>

### **Michelle Sobolak, University of Pittsburgh**

We join one another today on the land and near the rivers originally in the care and protection of the Adena and Hopewell Nations, and the Monongahela Peoples, and shared over time by many Indigenous Nations—including the Delaware, Iroquois, and Shawnee Tribes—as a place of gathering and exchange. We join you also on the land and near the rivers cared for and cultivated as a site of Freedom, from the Underground Railroad to global uprisings for racial justice. As a process of Rematriation, we acknowledge our connection to place and honor the land as a relative.

### **Beth Sockman, East Stroudsburg University**

East Stroudsburg University honors the Lenape on whose ancient and sacred land we stand. We acknowledge that we are guests in the original homeland of the living nations of the Delaware Nation, the Delaware Tribe, the Stockbridge Munsee Community, the Seneca-Cayuga Nation, and others. ESU extends our respect to the many Indigenous people who call these lands home.

### **Emily Wender, Indiana University of Pennsylvania**

Please visit the website of IUP's Native American Awareness Council for more information about historical and contemporary issues in Native America.

We acknowledge that this land has long served as a site of meeting and exchange among Indigenous peoples, including the Erie, Iroquois, Lenape, Munsee, Osage, Shawnee, and the Susquehannock tribal nations. We acknowledge the painful history of genocide and forced removal from this place, and honor and respect the many diverse Indigenous peoples still connected to this land. This land was primarily Osage and Iroquois, who call themselves Haudenosaunee. The Allegany also claimed this territory as their southern hunting lands. Additionally, the Delaware inhabited what is today Indiana County because they were pushed here through violence by the white settlers. Finally, there is the ancient Monongahela culture that is known primarily through archeological record. We join in acknowledging the elders, both past and present, as well as future generations of the Native people who are the rightful heirs to this land. We acknowledge that this place was founded upon exclusion and erasures of many Indigenous peoples. This acknowledgement demonstrates the commitment to continuing the

process of working to dismantle the ongoing legacy of settler colonialism. We acknowledge our responsibility of work for equity, justice, and reparations for Native peoples of this land and all the Americas.

### **Miriam Witmer, Millersville University**

We would like to recognize the Native peoples of the lower Susquehanna River basin, those known and those unknown to us, who have stewarded the land, upon which Millersville University sits, for thousands of years. We acknowledge that the land on which we gather, study, and work is the ancestral land of the Conestogas, Susquehannocks, Shawnee, and others. One group, the Shenks Ferry people, had a village adjacent to the campus. We pay our respects to the traditional occupants and caretakers of this land.