

Diverse Voices

PRODUCED BY THE IUP COLLEGE OF EDUCATION & COMMUNICATIONS DIVERSITY & INCLUSION STANDING COMMITTEE

IUPUI

COLLEGE OF

Education and
Communications

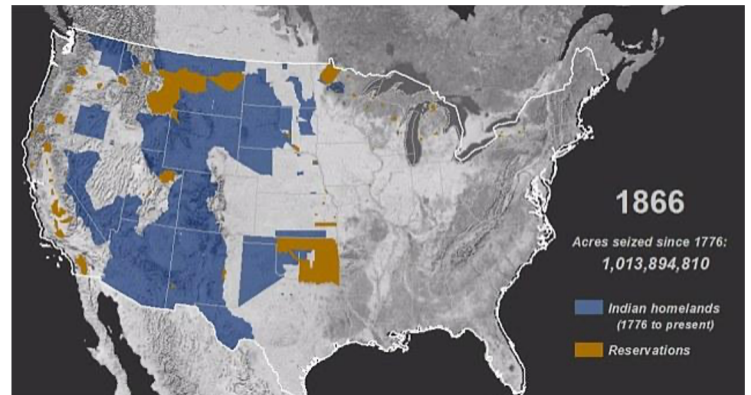
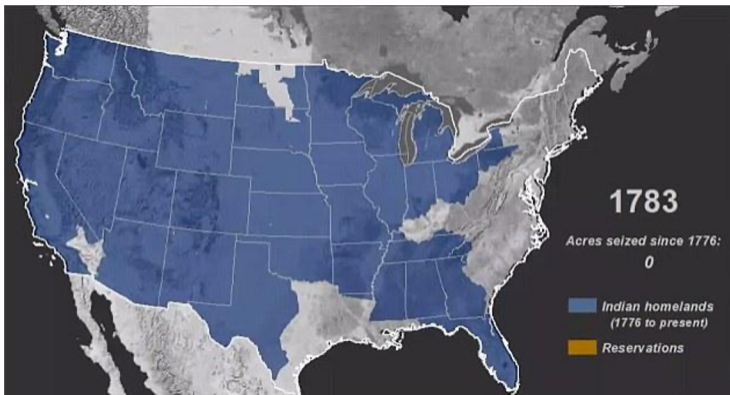
Hot Takes: Decolonization in Higher Education

In collaboration with the Student Affairs in Higher Education (SAHE) Department Racial Justice Advisory, we present *Hot Takes*: A crash-course style social justice presentation series. The November session on Decolonization in Higher Education was presented by Gina Mulh, '21, and Eliza Eames, current student, from the SAHE Department. This edition of *Diverse Voices* features information from the *Hot Takes: Decolonization* presentation and concludes with references and resources.

A Brief History of Colonization in Higher Education

The Morrill Land Grant Act of 1862

- The Morrill Land Grant Acts were meant for post-war financial rehabilitation by establishing new institutions of higher education
- This act granted the U.S. Congress the authority to forcibly remove Indigenous peoples from their homelands in order to establish new institutions on the land (Stein, 2018)
- Below is a comparative map showing Indigenous homelands before and after the U.S. government seized over 1.5 billion acres of Indigenous homelands through the Morrill Acts



(eHistory, 2014)

Defining the terms

- **Colonization** refers to the use of force and power exerted by a governing authority over a group of people
 - In the U.S., the form of colonization that we are addressing is **settler colonialism**, which is a domination of power that results in the dispossession of Indigenous peoples of their lands and authority
- **Decolonization** is the complex process of unlearning centuries of colonial ideas and structures and reimagining the way that we think about the history of Indigenous peoples and land. (Stein, 2017)

IUPUI

Diverse Voices

PRODUCED BY THE IUP COLLEGE OF EDUCATION & COMMUNICATIONS DIVERSITY & INCLUSION STANDING COMMITTEE



COLLEGE OF

Education and
Communications

Hot Takes: Decolonization in Higher Education Decolonizing Higher Education

Unfortunately, there is no easy or explicit way to achieve decolonization. However, here are some recommendations for good practice:

- **Get comfortable being uncomfortable** and encourage open discussion about decolonization.
- **Avoid tokenism.** Always uplift Indigenous voices, but don't rely on them to do the work.
- **Educate yourself** on this issue to encourage discussion and work to end oppressive practices
- **Land Acknowledgements** are one way that some institutions honor and recognize the history of the land that they are occupying.

Land Acknowledgements

Before implementing a Land Acknowledgement for your classroom/syllabi, consider the following resources:

[A Guide to Indigenous Land Acknowledgements](#)

[The Native Governance Center](#)

[Native Land Digital Map](#)

[IUP Native American Awareness Council](#)

IUP Land Acknowledgement:

We acknowledge that this land has long served as a site of meeting and exchange among Indigenous peoples, including the Erie, Iroquois, Lenape, Munsee, 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 archaeological 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.



**NATIVE AMERICAN
HERITAGE MONTH**



Diverse Voices

PRODUCED BY THE IUP COLLEGE OF EDUCATION & COMMUNICATIONS DIVERSITY & INCLUSION STANDING COMMITTEE



COLLEGE OF

Education and
Communications

Hot Takes: Decolonization in Higher Education

References and Resources

A guide to Indigenous land acknowledgement (2019, October 22). Native governance center.

Retrieved November 17, 2021 from <https://nativegov.org/news/a-guide-to-indigenous-land-acknowledgment/>

eHistory. (2014, June 2). *The invasion of America* [Video]. YouTube.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pJxrTzfG2bo>

Guide to Indigenous Land and Territorial Acknowledgements for Cultural Institutions. (n.d.).

<http://landacknowledgements.org>

Native American Awareness Council. (n.d.). *Indiana University of Pennsylvania*.

<https://www.iup.edu/social-equity/diversity-commissions/native-american-awareness-council/>

Stein, S. (2016, October 26). Facing up to the colonial present of U.S. Higher Education. Medium.

<https://medium.com/@educationotherwise/https-medium-com-educationotherwise-soyouwant-to-decolonize-higher-education-4a7370d64955>

Stein, S. (2017, December 5). So you want to decolonize higher education? Necessary conversations for non-Indigenous people. Medium.

<https://medium.com/@educationotherwise/facing-up-to-the-colonial-present-of-u-s-higher-education-62f6a16428ec>

Stein, S. (2018). Confronting the racial-colonial foundations of US higher education. *Journal for the Study of Postsecondary and Tertiary Education*, 3, 77-98.

