

November 3, 2021

Native American Representation and Reciprocity Initiative, Reciprocal Partnerships with Native Nations Working Group

Jenny Davis, Associate Professor, American Indian Studies, Anthropology, and Gender & Women's Studies; Chancellor's Fellow, (Chair)

Nizam Arain, Associate Vice Chancellor for Access and Equity, OVCDEI, (Ex-Officio)

William Bernhard, Vice Provost for Academic Affairs, Office of the Provost

Jewel Cunningham, Senior, Social Work

Robert Flider, Director of Community and Government Relations, Office of the Chancellor

Krystiana Krupa, Program Officer, NAGPRA Office, OVCRI

Ryan Ross, Assistant Director of History and Traditions Programs, University of Illinois Alumni Association

D. Fairchild Ruggles, Professor of Landscape History, College of Applied and Fine Arts

Alma Sealine, Executive Director, University Housing

Wanda Ward, Executive Associate Chancellor for Public Engagement

Dulce Talavera, Office Manager, Department of American Indian Studies (Staffing and Support)

Dear Colleagues,

Thank you for agreeing to serve on the Reciprocal Partnerships with Native Nations Working Group, under the coordination of the Native American Representation and Reciprocity Initiative Steering Committee. Director of the Program in American Indian Studies and Chancellor's Fellow Jenny Davis will chair this working group and Dulce Talavera will provide staffing and support. Your work will complement the three other working groups being charged as part of this effort: History and Accountability; Building New Traditions; and Recruitment and Retention.

In September 2019, Chancellor Jones charged members of the Chancellor's Executive Leadership Committee and additional campus stakeholders to draft an implementation plan based upon observations from the 2019 *Chancellor's Commission on Native Imagery Report*. The *Implementation Plan on Native Imagery* was accepted by Chancellor Jones in December 2020. Chancellor Jones tasked my office, Office of the Vice Chancellor for Diversity, Equity & Inclusion, to coordinate the realization of this plan. We request your service in leading the actualization of the programs and initiatives detailed in the *Implementation Plan on Native Imagery*.

Our university has an obligation to actively develop relationships with the Native Nations who call the lands that comprise the state of Illinois their ancestral home. However, those relationships must be respectful of the protocol, history, and sovereignty of these Native Nations. The Reciprocal Partnerships with Native Nations Working Group will focus on establishing protocol and building relationships with Native Nations based upon the model proposed in the Implementation Plan. To continue the work to achieve the goals set forth in this report, we ask that this working group:

- Propose a process for developing and maintaining reciprocal relationships with Native Nations, giving particular attention to Nations most centrally displaced by the University of Illinois and State of Illinois.
- Create a plan to renew the Memorandum of Understanding with Peoria Nation leadership and establish new relationships with the Miami and Potawatomi Nations.
- Develop proposal for permanent structures, such as a center or flag plaza, that would acknowledge and represent Peoria and other Native Nations as defined by the nations' conceptualizations of reciprocity and honor.

As part of the overarching Native American Representation and Reciprocity Initiative, you will provide key contributions toward the proposed next steps for the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign.

Beyond your specific charge, I ask that your working group explicitly address the following:

- The resources and partners needed to implement the reports suggestions
- A projected timeline of implementation of these actions, in keeping with the report's recommendations of short- (1 year) and mid-range (2-3 year) timeframes
- How this process might be communicated to campus stakeholders

As a first step in this process, I ask that you that you work as a group to identify current campus programs and prioritize necessary next steps. A full plan that details a projected timeline and budget for implementation is to be submitted to the Native American Representation and Reciprocity Steering Committee by March 31, 2022.

I thank you for your service as part of this important work for our university.

Sincerely,



Sean C. Garrick
Vice Chancellor for Diversity, Equity & Inclusion

