

In Honor of
NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH



The land that is now Adair County, Missouri was previously inhabited by Indigenous peoples, specifically the Ioway, Missouria, and Otoe peoples and other Indigenous groups, including the Sac and Fox and Osage nations, also inhabited the area.



The land was also previously inhabited by the Mississippian peoples, whose legacy includes petroglyphs found at what is now Thousand Hills State Park.

The land that is now Adair County was ceded in one of a series of treaties, signed in 1824 by the Ioway.

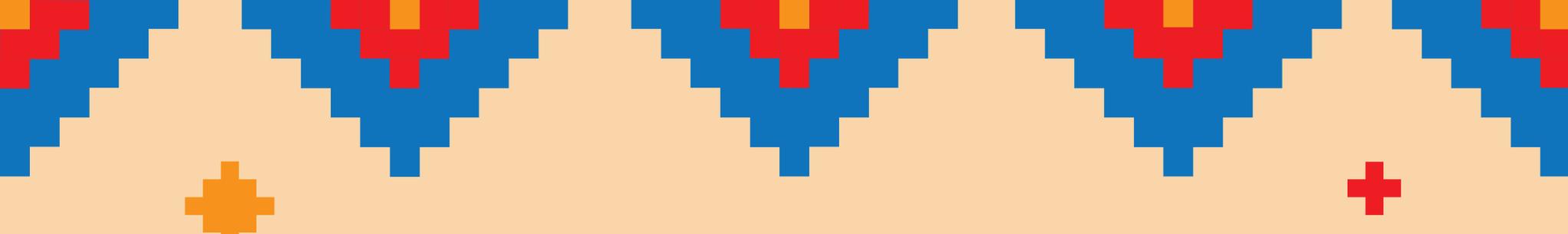


By 1838, almost all Indigenous peoples had been removed from Missouri, many due to the threat of violence. These land cessions followed a national trend of coercion and dispossession which removed Indigenous peoples from their lands.

Upon evaluation of the history and impact of colonial settlement, higher education institutions around the world have moved to formally recognize “the traditional custodial relationship between native people and the land.”



This recognition, often called “land acknowledgement,” is a statement written in official publications, and spoken at events and activities sanctioned by institutions and their subsidiary organizations.



Student Government presents our
LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT STATEMENTS



Land acknowledgement serves to raise awareness of Indigenous presence and land rights in everyday life and is a simple and powerful way to show respect, helps correct the stories and practices that erase Indigenous history and culture, and is a step toward inviting and honoring truthful representation of Indigenous peoples.



Land acknowledgement not only recognizes the history and legacy of colonialism, but also embraces the responsibility to consider that history and the privileges that settlers' descendants enjoy today because of colonialism.

Numerous institutions in the region formally acknowledge their presence on Indigenous land, including the University of Illinois system, Northwestern University, Michigan State University, and Indiana University.



No other public Missouri University has published an official land acknowledgement statement and Truman State University would be the first public Missouri University to formally adopt land acknowledgement.

The Student Government has drafted this resolution in consultation with relevant Truman faculty. Land acknowledgement is consistent with Truman State University's vision of ensuring that students have an "empathetic understanding of human experiences at home and around the world."

