

# Land Acknowledgement: Practices and Challenges

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# Definitions

- shows respect to the Indigenous people who are the original stewards of the land that person is on
- understanding of the history that led to the speaker being on this land
- a commitment to action with forming relationships to Native people within and outside your community

# Two Examples...One Institution

*The University of Wisconsin–Madison occupies ancestral Ho-Chunk land, a place their nation has called Teejop (day-JOPE) since time immemorial.*

*The University of Wisconsin–Madison occupies ancestral Ho-Chunk land, a place their nation has called Teejop (day-JOPE) since time immemorial. In an 1832 treaty, the Ho-Chunk were forced to cede this territory. Decades of ethnic cleansing followed when both the federal and state government repeatedly, but unsuccessfully, sought to forcibly remove the Ho-Chunk from Wisconsin. This history of colonization informs our shared future of collaboration and innovation. Today, UW–Madison respects the inherent sovereignty of the Ho-Chunk Nation, along with the eleven other First Nations of Wisconsin.*



## Native to Native

- Center the people and not the land as much
- Welcomed vs occupying
- Recognition of belonging (not ownership)

## Native to Settler

- Center the people with the land
- Recognition of occupation
- Make space for tough conversations
- Compensation for their labor

# Settler to Native

- Listening is more important than answering
- Our History is shared, but not equally known and recognized
- What are we doing to change?

# Settler to Settler

- Our history is shared and celebrated
- Erasure is real both in history and real time
- The land we are on is stolen, and it is up to us to start making amends

# Written Land Acknowledgements

- Research the tribes who occupy the land you're on or were displaced from the land
- Don't sugarcoat the past
- It's not a funeral - be respectful but not mournful
- Make sure to acknowledge the current Indigenous people, not just those of the past
- Build relationships with Indigenous people
- Say what you're doing to support Indigenous people
- [Native Governance Center](#)

# Native Expectations

- Supporting Native people through the relationship built
- Land Back
- Space to be ourselves and to bring Native knowledge to the forefront
- Not every person has the same expectations or even feelings about land acknowledgements

# Who is living near or around my community?

## American Indian Nations of Wisconsin



**BAD RIVER BAND OF LAKE SUPERIOR CHIPPEWA**



**BROTHERTOWN NATION\***  
(not federally/state recognized)



**FOREST COUNTY POTAWATOMI**



**HO-CHUNK NATION**



**LAC COURTE OREILLES BAND OF LAKE SUPERIOR CHIPPEWA**



**LAC DU FLAMBEAU BAND OF LAKE SUPERIOR CHIPPEWA**



**MENOMINEE INDIAN TRIBE OF WISCONSIN**



**ONEIDA NATION**



**RED CLIFF BAND OF LAKE SUPERIOR CHIPPEWA**



**SOKAOGON CHIPPEWA COMMUNITY**



**ST. CROIX CHIPPEWA INDIANS OF WISCONSIN**



**STOCKBRIDGE-MUNSEE COMMUNITY BAND OF MOHICAN INDIANS**

...but who else?

# Resources:

- [American Indians in Children's Literature](#)
- [American Indian Library Association](#)
- [Wisconsin DPI Bibliography Series](#)
- [Native Governance Center](#)
- <https://native-land.ca/>



American  
Indian  
Library  
Association



# Outcomes

- Settlers do not get to set the benchmarks
- Do not expect instant outcomes
- Land Acknowledgements are not funerals/it's ok to celebrate resiliency
- Building relationships will outlast those who initiate them