

A Resolution to Commemorate and Actively Support Indigenous Peoples at Michigan Technological University

WHEREAS Michigan Technological University (“Michigan Tech”) sits on lands that is ceded territory granted to the United States (U.S.) – established by the 1842 Treaty with the Chippewa – whereby the Ojibwe people retain usufructuary rights to the land in perpetuity;¹

WHEREAS President Glenn Mroz recently supported a diversity workforce endowment, stating it “reinforces his and Michigan Tech’s commitment to diversity”;²

WHEREAS President George H. W. Bush passed a Resolution in 1990 for each November to be recognized as National American Indian Heritage Month in the U.S.;³

WHEREAS President Barack Obama issued A Proclamation in 2016 to celebrate Native American Heritage, stating, “I call upon all Americans to commemorate this month with appropriate programs and activities, and to celebrate November 25, 2016, as Native American Heritage Day”;⁴

WHEREAS the United Nations (UN), by Resolution 49/214 of 1994, established August 9th as the International Day of the World’s Indigenous People “to promote and protect the rights of the world’s indigenous population” and encourages people from different nations “to participate in observing the day to spread the UN’s message on indigenous peoples”;⁵

WHEREAS Indigenous Peoples are commemorated across the U.S. – in more than forty cities, five states, and numerous Universities – by designating celebrations such as Indigenous Peoples’ Day on the 2nd Monday of October;⁶

WHEREAS Indigenous commemorations are observed each year worldwide;⁶ therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Graduate Student Government (GSG) at Michigan Technological University urges the students of Michigan Technological University to commemorate Indigenous Peoples every year from this year, 2017.

BE IT ALSO RESOLVED THAT the GSG urges the students of Michigan Technological University to **actively support** the **recognition** of Indigenous Peoples worldwide, including **education and dialogue** on diversity and solidarity, social justice, and decolonization⁷.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the GSG urges the students of Michigan Technological University to **actively support** the **recognition** of and **education** about the Ojibwe Peoples’ presence and contributions to Michigan Tech and the larger community in the region.

Respectfully submitted by The Indigenous Peoples’ Day Campaign at Michigan Tech, on 23 January 2017.

¹ <http://www.glifwc.org/TreatyRights/treatyright.html>

² <http://www.mtu.edu/news/stories/2016/october/forestry-dean-endows-fund-for-natural-resources-workforce-diversity.html>

³ <https://www.bia.gov/DocumentLibrary/HeritageMonth/>

⁴ <https://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2016/10/31/presidential-proclamation-national-native-american-heritage-month-2016>

⁵ <http://www.un.org/en/events/indigenousday/>

⁶ <http://www.dailykos.com/story/2016/10/10/1579733/-States-cities-universities-that-have-adopted-Indigenous-Peoples-Day-and-rejected-Columbus-Day/>

⁷ <https://intercontinentalcry.org/what-is-decolonization-and-why-does-it-matter/>