

STATE of WISCONSIN



OFFICE of the GOVERNOR

Proclamation

WHEREAS; Native Americans have inhabited this continent and this region since time immemorial, and have contributed significantly to the growth, prosperity, and identity of our country, from before its inception to present day; and

WHEREAS; the 2020 United States Census reports that than 9.7 million people throughout our country identify as American Indian and Alaska Native and, according to the Bureau of Indian Affairs, there are currently 574 federally recognized Native Nations; and

WHEREAS; Wisconsin is home to 11 federally recognized Native Nations and one Native Nation actively working towards federal recognition, and has been home to countless Indigenous leaders who have defended the land, protected the water, and championed Native rights, sovereignty, and prosperity for generations; and

WHEREAS; the state of Wisconsin pledges to respect the individual sovereignty of each Native Nation, while recognizing the somber history of colonization, exploitation, violence, and systemic racism that Indigenous peoples have endured, and continue to endure, at the hands of our state and federal governments; and

WHEREAS; the state of Wisconsin also acknowledges its historical role in the operation of federal Indian boarding schools, in particular, and formally recognizes and apologizes for the trauma inflicted upon generations of Native American children, families, and communities through this policy; and

WHEREAS; our state remains firmly committed to expanding practices and partnerships that work to close achievement, opportunity, and equity gaps for Native communities, and further commits to supporting the Federal Indian Boarding School Initiative and welcoming the United States Department of Interior to investigate the Indian boarding schools that once operated in our state; and

WHEREAS; on this occasion, the state of Wisconsin celebrates the incredible resilience of the Native Nations and Indigenous peoples throughout Wisconsin who have, despite all odds, preserved their unique cultures, languages, and traditions, and refused to be erased, and who continue to make valuable economic contributions to our state, including serving as large employers, impacting regional economic landscapes, contributing to state and local fiscal obligations, and supporting local communities and charity; and


WHEREAS; this month provides all Wisconsinites with the opportunity to honor the history of the Indigenous peoples of our state and country, and to recognize and learn about the rich cultures, traditions, and contemporary contributions of Native Americans in Wisconsin and across the United States;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tony Evers, Governor of the State of Wisconsin,
do hereby proclaim November 2021 as


NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

throughout the State of Wisconsin and I commend this observance
to all our state's residents.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Wisconsin to be affixed. Done at the Capitol in the City of Madison this 2nd day of November 2021.


TONY EVERS
GOVERNOR

By the Governor:


DOUGLAS LA FOLLETTE
Secretary of State

