

MONTCLAIR STATE UNIVERSITY

Office of the President
Office: 973-655-4212

To: Shannon Bellum, University Senate President

From: Jonathan Koppell, President

Date: April 6, 2026

Re: Response to Recommendation for University Land Acknowledgement Statement

President Bellum:

We have reviewed the policy recommendation for a University Land Acknowledgement Statement. Thank you for the efforts dedicated to that recommendation and the Senate's commitment to this topic.

After extensive collaboration between Native American and Indigenous Studies team and University leadership, I am pleased to share the University's new Land Acknowledgement Statements below.

Montclair State University occupies land in Lenapehoking, the ancestral and expropriated territory of the Lenape. Through active collaboration with local tribal communities, we commit to celebrate and support Indigenous resilience, and honor traditional teachings on respect for the land and all people.

We confront the ongoing legacies of Indigenous dispossession and erasure by supporting the sovereignty of New Jersey's state-recognized tribes: the Ramapough Lunaape, Nanticoke Leni-Lenape, and Powhatan Renape nations. We also recognize the sovereign nations of the Lenape diaspora across North America, and all Indigenous people residing in New Jersey today.

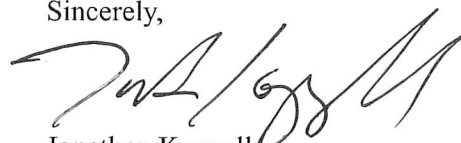
For members of the University community that wish to incorporate such an acknowledgment into email signatures, events or other work, the following abridged statements are also available:

One-sentence version: Montclair State University occupies land in Lenapehoking, the ancestral and expropriated territory of the Lenape. [include link to LA webpage]

Two-sentence version: Montclair State University occupies land in Lenapehoking, the ancestral and expropriated territory of the Lenape. We commit to celebrate and support Indigenous resilience, and honor traditional teachings on respect for the land and all people. [include link to LA webpage]

Thank you for your thoughts.

Sincerely,



Jonathan Koppell
President

cc: Keith Barrack, Chief of Staff