

STUDENT SENATE BILL 2025-1217

TITLE: Resolution Commemorating November as American Native Heritage Month

AUTHOR(S): Senator Cassie Urbenz

SPONSOR(S):

WHEREAS, in 1990, the month of November was declared as National American Indian Heritage Month, thereafter commonly referred to as Native American Heritage Month [1]; and,

WHEREAS, there are a multitude of terms (such as Indigenous, Indian, Aboriginal, Native American, Native...) used to refer to the communities of peoples celebrated and supported during this month, each with their own shortcomings in terms of specificity and problematic origin; and,

WHEREAS, students of Native American heritage have never comprised more than 1 percent of UF's undergraduate body according to publicly accessible data [2]; and,

WHEREAS, considering this underrepresentation, it is important to allocate resources to the celebration or uplifting/co-sponsoring events centered around Native American Heritage Month; and,

WHEREAS, the University of Florida Student Senate has passed multiple resolutions observing November as American Native Heritage Month; and,

WHEREAS, the University of Florida Student Senate upholds its previous statements of appreciation and commends the contributions of people of Native descent to American popular culture and history; and,

WHEREAS, the University of Florida Student Senate recognizes the vital purpose of Land Acknowledgements in speaking the names of the tribes whose land was taken from them in order to further awareness of their legacy, especially when people oftentimes have never heard them spoken aloud before; then,

THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED that the University of Florida Student Senate celebrates November as a month to celebrate and recenter on supporting Indigenous communities.

THEREFORE, LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED that the University of Florida Student Senate supports the usage of Land Acknowledgements to expand visibility of Indigenous communities.

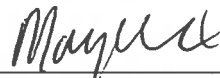
THEREFORE, LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED that the University of Florida Student Senate supports allocating resources to the celebration or uplifting/co-sponsoring events centered around Native American Heritage.

THEREFORE, LET IT FINALLY BE RESOLVED that the University of Florida Student Senate supports any efforts that acknowledge the legacy of Native students at the University of Florida, as well as the visibility of Indigenous communities, through preserving their names.

[1] -

https://www.senate.gov/artandhistory/history/common/generic/American_Indian_Heritage_Month.htm#:~:text=Every%20year%2C%20by%20statute%20and,senators%20of%20Native%20American%20descent.

[2] - <https://ir.aa.ufl.edu/facts/enrollment-by-race-ethnicity/>



Maya Idiculla
Senate President

11/19/25

Date