

Legacy Communities Alliance for Health - April 26

Land Acknowledgement

Start our day through an exercise called a land acknowledgement. The purpose of these statements is to show respect for indigenous peoples and recognize their enduring relationship to the land. Practicing acknowledgment can also raise awareness about histories that are often suppressed, unspoken or forgotten.

Every community owes its existence and vitality to generations from around the world who contributed their hopes, dreams, and energy to making the history that led to this moment. Some were brought here against their will, some were drawn to leave their distant homes in hope of a better life, and some have lived on this land for more generations than can be counted. Truth and acknowledgement are critical to building mutual respect and connection across all barriers of heritage and difference.

We begin our time together today by acknowledging what has been buried by honoring the truth. We are standing on the ancestral lands of the Menominee, Ojibw(a), and Stockbridge Munsee People. We pay respects to their elders past and present. Please take a moment to consider the many legacies of violence, displacement, migration, and settlement that bring us together here today. And please join us in uncovering such truths every day. This history of colonization informs our shared future of collaboration and innovation.

Some reasons to practice land acknowledgement include:

- Offer recognition and respect.
- Create a broader public awareness of the history that has led to this moment.
- Begin to repair relationships with Native communities and with the land.
- Support larger truth-telling and reconciliation efforts.
- Remind people that colonization an ongoing process, with Native lands still occupied due to deceptive and broken treaties.
- Inspire ongoing action and relationship.

Resources:

Honor Native Land: A Guide and Call to Acknowledgement. PDF can be accessed [here](https://usdac.us/nativeland). Link: <https://usdac.us/nativeland>.

UW Land Recognition. Black Cultural Center and Multicultural Student Center. PDF can be accessed [here](#).

Wisconsin First Nations Map: <https://wisconsinfirstnations.org/map/>