

October 8, 2021

Dear Colleagues,

As Manhattanville continues our DEI journey, it's important to recognize not just injustice, but opportunities for sustainable improvement. In this instance, it's recognizing the fact that we often traverse land that isn't ours, and the need to honor the resilient Indigenous peoples to whom it usually belongs.

The second Monday in October became officially recognized as a federal holiday in 1937: Columbus Day. There has been a call to recognize that the land we originally settled was taken, not found by a white explorer who made a "fair and equitable trade" with the people living here. In Manhattanville's case, John Harrison of Flushing, Queens purchased the land from the Siwanoy for 40 English pounds (the equivalent of \$54.25 USD today). Land ownership was generally an unfamiliar concept to the Siwanoy.

Manhattanville aspires to the principles of social justice. I hope that you will stand with me in recognition of October 11th as Indigenous Peoples' Day. I invite you to share your ideas on events, programming, and celebrations that recognize the contributions of Indigenous people for future planning. I look forward to working with you to further our recognition and celebration of Indigenous Peoples' Day.

Thank you,

Cindy L. Porter, Ed. D

Vice President of Student Affairs

Chief Diversity Officer

VPStudentAffairs@mville.edu

