



RECOGNITION OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' DAY

**UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT CHARLOTTE
2020**

WHEREAS, American Indians who have inhabited this continent since long before their first contact with English Settlers shared their knowledge of the land and its resources, and continue to play a vital role in the development of local communities, the State of North Carolina and the nation;

WHEREAS, it is our collective responsibility to recognize and honor that the land that currently serves the University of North Carolina at Charlotte is the traditional territory of the Catawba and Carolina Siouan indigenous communities;

WHEREAS, we recognize that the land heretofore described occupies colonized aboriginal territories, and it is our collective responsibility also to consider critically the colonial histories and present-day implications for the purpose of honoring, protecting and sustaining this land;

WHEREAS, many who live, study or work in this space are settlers, immigrants or descendants of those who originally occupied this land, or forcefully were brought to this land;

WHEREAS, the idea of Indigenous Peoples' Day was first proposed in 1977 by the International Conference on Discrimination Against the Indigenous Population in the Americas; and

WHEREAS, Indigenous Peoples' Day is recognized in North Carolina on the second Monday of October to celebrate and honor Native American peoples and commemorate their histories and cultures, a delegation sponsored by First Nations leaders to the United Nations;

NOW, therefore, the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, does hereby recognize the second Monday of October in 2020 Indigenous Peoples' Day at UNC Charlotte, and commend its observance to all members of the University community.

Cheryl Waites Spellman, Ed.D.

Interim Special Assistant to the Chancellor for Diversity and Inclusion

**Paragraphs 1, 5 and 6 adopted from Proclamation for Indigenous Peoples' Day, State of North Carolina, 2017*