

*Presidential recognition of November as Native American
Heritage Month at Wayne State University*

WHEREAS the United States Congress has designated the month of November as Native American Heritage Month, and Wayne State University joins in honoring the rich histories, cultures and enduring contributions of Native American and Alaska Native people in our society; and

WHEREAS a congressional resolution proclaiming Native American Heritage Month was first passed in 1990, and Gov. Gretchen Whitmer issued a proclamation declaring November as Native American Heritage Month in Michigan Nov. 1, 2023; and

WHEREAS Michigan is home to many Indigenous nations, including the Ojibwe, Odawa, Potawatomi and Wyandot people, whose histories are deeply interwoven with the land and the history of Detroit and the state; and

WHEREAS Wayne State University rests on Waawiyaataanong, also referred to as Detroit, the ancestral and contemporary homeland of the Three Fires Confederacy — the Ojibwe, Odawa and Potawatomi nations — and the Wyandot people. Through the Treaty of Detroit in 1807, these sovereign lands were granted to the United States, and today, Wayne State affirms its commitment to honoring Indigenous sovereignty and advancing educational equity for Native communities; and

WHEREAS Native American and Alaska Native communities have made significant contributions throughout history in areas such as governance, agriculture, environmental stewardship, language and the arts, enriching the cultural fabric of the United States and promoting sustainable practices that are essential to building a better future while also preserving distinct traditions, values and worldviews; and

WHEREAS Native American Heritage Month serves as an important reminder to reflect on the resilience of Native American and Alaska Native people, acknowledge their historical and ongoing struggles, and honor their profound impact on both our past and future, as well as their immeasurable contributions to the state of Michigan and beyond.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Kimberly Andrews Espy, Ph.D., president of Wayne State University, hereby proclaim the month of November as Native American Heritage Month at Wayne State University, and I encourage the entire campus community to join proudly in this celebration.



A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Kimberly Andrews Espy".

Kimberly Andrews Espy, Ph.D.
President