

CENTRAL COUNCIL OF THE STUDENT ASSEMBLY
RESOLUTION
Saturday, October 12, 2019

Shenandoah-Kirkland Initiative is planning on holding events on Mon, Oct. 14 for Indigenous People's Day. Here is our Assembly's solidarity statement.

Background

The Student Assembly of Hamilton College stands in solidarity with the Shenandoah-Kirkland Initiative to acknowledge our colonial history and the ties of this campus to the indigenous inhabitants of this land. Our campus is located on the lands of the Oneida people, and the Hamilton-Oneida Academy was first founded through a relationship between Chief Shenandoah and Rev. Samuel Kirkland.

We strongly encourage all members of the student body, faculty, and staff to participate in Monday's Indigenous People's Day by wearing *BLACK*. We also encourage you to attend a public Land Acknowledgement from members of the Oneida Nation to commemorate Hamilton's history with the Oneida (12-2PM in front of Sadove).

Hamilton College's Shenandoah-Kirkland Initiative Land Acknowledgement:

"Hamilton College recognizes our collective responsibility to acknowledge our colonial history. Our campus is located on the lands of the Oneida people. We express gratitude for the relationship between Chief Shenandoah and Rev. Samuel Kirkland – a friendship marked by Shenandoah's final wish to be buried beside Kirkland, with their final resting place now together in our College cemetery.

Together, these men created the Hamilton-Oneida Academy in 1793 to educate Haudenosaunee and settler youth together. Kirkland envisioned an institution located on Oneida territory to keep native youth connected to their family, natural environment, and way of life. However, the envisioned education was a traditional Western curriculum focused on classical languages.

Unfortunately, the academy did not follow through on its promise of educating Haudenosaunee youth. Only a sparse number of native individuals attended the Hamilton-Oneida Academy in its inception and after a few years, were completely absent from the student body. In 1812, this institution evolved into Hamilton College. Today, the Hamilton College community commits itself to engaging in solidarity with the Oneida Nation, and to ensuring that the perspectives and cultures of Indigenous people are honored and embraced.



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We stand ready to re-visit Kirkland's founding vision for this school, seeking to forge a new friendship between the Hamilton College community and Native peoples, offering educational benefits to the Haudenosaunee peoples of New York state. In stating these words, we do not claim to have reached reconciliation; instead, we are remembering our collective history and looking forward to the future when such reconciliation is a possibility."

