



STATEMENT FROM CHAIRMAN BACA ON INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' DAY

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 10th, 2022

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY, NY - October 10th will be recognized as Indigenous Peoples' Day on a national scale after the signing of a proclamation the Indigenous Peoples' Initiative (IPI) helped draft with the White House. This proclamation is a significant step towards proper recognition and retribution for Indigenous communities and people in the United States. To celebrate the occasion, in partnership with Columbia University, Barnard College, and the Indigneous Peoples' Initiative, the IPI hosted an event with tribal leaders, school faculty and administrators, distinguished guests, and students.

Chairman Baca said, "Having a clear and truthful understanding of history and of the Indigenous experience allows the fellow Americans and our broader global community to engage Indigenous peoples from a position of truth and has the capacity to bind us together as Americans. This profound change will allow Indigenous Peoples' to be recognized for their vast contributions to society and bring us closer as a community. The success and compassion of future generations will rely on establishing a policy of truth that is predicated on the social conscience of people in positions of influence and power."

Fellow board member and advisory committee chair, Tristan Espinoza stated, "It is my goal to make sure no kid feels lost or isolated on an island with people they did not choose for factors about their identity they cannot change. No Hispanic, person of color, Indigenous, or queer person should ever feel like this and it is our duty to protect and celebrate them today and every day."

Indigenous Peoples' Day represents an opportunity to learn about our past and work together to build a stronger future for generations to come. It is the hope of IPI and its partners that we continue to strengthen relationships with schools, organizations, and governments to ensure we are able to make progress for the collective good of our Indigenous peoples and more so our global communities.