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Higher Education*

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Land Acknowledgement

TVC 43 Executive Board

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LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Vermont Connection recognizes the University of Vermont was established and presently resides on the traditional, ancestral, and current land of the Abenaki nation of Missisquoi, specifically the St. Francis-Sokoki Band of the Abenaki Nation of Missisquoi. Despite attempts to remove the Abenaki from this land, including forced sterilization through the Eugenics Survey, supported by UVM on its campus, the Abenaki continue to reside on, and care for, this land. We are grateful to have the opportunity to learn on their ancestral homelands, and we acknowledge that colonization is an ongoing process with Native Lands still occupied from broken treaties, and that we, as members of the Vermont Connection and non-Indigenous settlers, are benefactors of this arrangement. We acknowledge our collective responsibility to advocate for the sovereignty of Native nations and returning of land and financial resources to the Abenaki people. We invite you to read more about this from an Abenaki perspective.

We also encourage all members and friends of the Vermont Connection to learn whose lands they occupy, and we encourage you to learn more about the Indigenous communities, federally recognized or not, which have been stewards to the lands where you are located. We encourage all members and friends of TVC to familiarize yourselves with the knowledge to move beyond land acknowledgements to formulate concrete action plans for supporting Indigenous communities. With this knowledge in mind, we recognize the Indigenous descendent communities on which our university property rests and honor their involuntary sacrifices as we convene to share the collective wisdom published in the 43rd edition of the Vermont Connection Journal in the interest of advancing educational equity and transformative liberation in higher education.

This land acknowledgement has been adapted from the syllabi of Dr. Tracy Ballysingh, Dr. Tiffanie Spencer, Dr. Jason Garvey, and co-created by the members of the Vermont Connection 43 Executive Board.