# **Moving forward in Higher Education**

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"Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it." Writer and philosopher George Santayana

The American Steps

### Impact

Institutions of Higher education are often viewed as having a great positive impact on the area where they are built. This is true but they also have a history of being built on the physical land that was home to the native and indigenous people.

Many universities were not only built on land that was home to native tribes but the sale of the land was used to further education of non-natives in other areas as well.

We will never fully know the impact on native cultures, rituals or the lost history of american origins.

#### We can't change history so how do we impact the future?

Honoring the people that unwillingly gave up their lifestyle and the future that was taken from them is not enough to make up for what was lost.

Speaking about those impacted and naming what was lost in during the educational journey of the young adults in America are going to be impacted the most with an increase in exposure.

## **Extending an invitation**

The dream is to invite local native people to be involved in bring native art to the campus.

Local art will be featured with explanations of the history, significance and symbolism on murals and posters and in printed campus materials.

Renaming isn't enough even though that is impactful as in the case of Mt Evans.

## Where do we go from here?

Continuing to extend an invitation to the communities impacted by settlers when America was first being explored and developed is a great start to repairing damage.

It should be the goal of every university to evaluate how to honor the past while preserving the present and supporting the future.



Board on Geographic Names completes renaming of Mount Evans. U.S. Department of the Interior. (2023, September 15). https://www.doi.gov/pressreleases/board-geographic-names-completes-renaming-mount-evans#:~:text=Board%20on%20Geogra phic%20Names%20Completes%20Renaming%20of%20Mount%20Evans,-Mount%20Blue%20Sky&text=The%2025%2Dmember %20Domestic%20Names,county%2C%20local%20and%20Tribal%20governments.

Nash, M. A. (2019). Entangled pasts: Land-Grant Colleges and American Indian dispossession. *History of Education Quarterly*, 59(4), 437–467. https://doi.org/10.1017/heq.2019.31