



University of Illinois Springfield

Student Government Association Resolution 016

Formally Recognizing Columbus Day as Indigenous People's Day

Resolution Sponsors: Student Duane Malany and President Mehmet

WHEREAS, the University of Illinois Springfield (UIS) Student Government Association (SGA) is vested with the authority to be the voice for the student body; and,

WHEREAS, it is the duty of the SGA to demonstrate equal concern and respect toward our alumni, current, and future students who are members of indigenous cultures; and

WHEREAS, it is essential for the SGA to avoid following U.S. society when it fails to recognize cultures of indigenous populations lost due to the colonization of the Americas; and,

WHEREAS, the inaccurate portrayal of Christopher Columbus as an American hero signifies a lack of equal concern or respect for the lives of persons who have belonged to indigenous cultures; and,

WHEREAS, precedent for the endorsement of this resolution has been set by multiple municipalities (such as Seattle, WA and Minneapolis, MN) and Universities (such as Cornell University and University of California–Berkeley) across the nation who have already formally changed the recognition of Columbus Day to Indigenous People's Day; and,

WHEREAS, members of said municipalities, universities and students, faculty, staff, and administrators at UIS recognize that Christopher Columbus never set foot in what is now the United States of America, and that colonization visited violence upon indigenous populations; and,

WHEREAS, Indigenous People's Day is a day to recognize the nation's first people; and,

WHEREAS, no pending current federal or state legislation exists to change the formal recognition of Columbus Day, which leaves it to members of the UIS community to reject a holiday that glorifies the life of Columbus.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Student Government Association at UIS officially recognizes Columbus Day as Indigenous People's Day.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Student Government Association petitions the UIS Campus Senate and the University Of Illinois Board Of Trustees to change the recognition of Columbus Day to Indigenous People's Day.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that to avoid legal complications this resolution does not aim to nor actually prohibit any student, student organization, or student function from celebrating or recognizing Columbus Day as provided by federal statute.

Secretary E. Hartney

President A. Mehmet