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UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
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Office of the President

Dear students, faculty, and staff,

November is National Native American Heritage Month, and as a University we are celebrating valued traditions and accomplishments among the countless ways Native Americans have made our campus communities better in every way.

We also acknowledge that all five of our system campuses are located on traditional, ancestral, and contemporary lands of Indigenous peoples. Because of this, our campuses have a complex and layered history, which is why we are committed to educating our community members about these lands, our relationships with them, and each other while advocating for Native Nations and peoples. We are also committed, through MPact 2025, our systemwide strategic plan, to strengthening partnership with Tribal Nations and to providing greater equity, access, and opportunity to ensure all members of our community reach their fullest potential.

In this spirit, we are proud to share with you an important new tuition program, as well as timely engagement opportunities.

University of Minnesota Native American Promise Tuition Program

The Morris campus has long had a Native American tuition waiver program, which offers financial assistance to qualifying Native American students. More than 6,000 waivers have been awarded since Morris joined the University of Minnesota System in 1960.

Starting in Fall 2022, we will expand this program to the remaining four system campuses, giving substantial financial support, and in many cases completely free tuition, to first-year undergraduate students and transfers from Tribal colleges who are enrolled citizens in one of Minnesota's 11 federally recognized Tribal Nations.

This expansion is a significant achievement. It means our program will be among the nation's most comprehensive free and reduced tuition programs for Native American students. It also aligns with our MPact 2025 goals including recruiting and retaining diverse students and improving retention and graduation rates while closing opportunity gaps. As a reminder, we already have existing student support programs on our campuses, including the [Circle of Indigenous Nations](#), the [American Indian Cultural House](#) on the Twin Cities campus, the [American](#)

[Indian Learning Resource Center](#) on the Duluth campus, and [American Indian support services](#) on the Morris campus.

[Learn more about the University of Minnesota Native American Promise Tuition Program.](#)

Impact Leaders

We invite you to join both of us for a [virtual conversation in celebration of Native American Heritage Month](#) on Thursday, Nov. 11. Our Morris campus is also offering [a teach-in on Saturday, Nov. 6](#) that you are welcome to join in person or via Zoom. In addition, we hope you will [explore the stories on our website](#) of six individuals—students, staff, faculty, and alumni—who are making a difference in their communities. From a historian who worked tirelessly to restore the name of a lake in Minneapolis, to an instructor helping to preserve the Dakota language for future generations, to a physician dedicated to increasing the number of Native American and Indigenous healthcare professionals, their stories inspire us.

As we celebrate them and so many others, let us also continue to build on the steps we've taken to advance the enduring possibility and progress we all seek. To this end, we call on each of us to commemorate this important month by joining in University events and activities as we collectively help to write this hopeful next chapter in our shared history.

With warmest regards,

Joan Gabel
President

Karen R. Diver
Senior Advisor to the President for Native American Affairs

This email was sent to all Systemwide students, faculty, and staff by Office of the President, [100 Church St S.E., Minneapolis, MN, 55455, USA](#). The University of Minnesota is an equal opportunity educator and employer.

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