

# The Vermont Connection

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## Land & Labor Acknowledgement

TVC 44 Executive Board

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## **Land & Labor Acknowledgement**

### TVC 44 Executive Board

The Vermont Connection 44 Executive Board invites you to take pause and consider the land on which you currently join this far reaching and geographically diverse community. Members of the Vermont Connection are spread across the world, with vastly different relationships to settler colonialism, as Indigenous peoples, settlers, and individuals still experiencing violence caused by the Trans-Atlantic trafficking of Enslaved Africans. The higher education industrial complex, which makes this journal and community possible, is inextricably connected to the historical and ongoing attempted genocide of Indigenous communities and the forced labor of Enslaved people. We share the following Land Acknowledgements, one recently adopted by the University of Vermont Board of Trustees and the other written by The Vermont Connection 43, to recognize the land that the University of Vermont occupies. We also encourage you to seek out information and resources about the land that you currently reside on and act in solidarity with your local Indigenous communities.

### ***The University of Vermont Land Acknowledgement***

The campus of the University of Vermont sits within a place of gathering and exchange, shaped by water and stewarded by ongoing generations of Indigenous peoples, in particular the Western Abenaki.

Acknowledging the relations between water, land, and people is in harmony with the mission of the university. Acknowledging the serious and significant impacts of our histories on Indigenous peoples and their homelands is a part of the university's ongoing work of teaching, research, and engagement and an essential reminder of our past and our interconnected futures for the many of us gathered on this land.

UVM respects the Indigenous knowledge interwoven in this place and commits to uplifting the Indigenous peoples and cultures present on this land and within our community.

***The Vermont Connection 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 the University of Vermont community, 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 44th volume 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 Arámbula Turner, Dr. Jason C. Garvey, Dr. Tiffanie Spencer, and co-created by the members of The Vermont Connection 43 Executive Board.*