

A yellow background with a repeating pattern of white medical icons including a stethoscope, microscope, syringe, pill bottle, heart, and first aid kit.

A special message

FROM THE DEAN

Dear Faculty, Staff, Residents, and Students,

October 11 marks the recognition of Indigenous People's Day and November is Native American History Month, honoring the original inhabitants of North America and celebrating Indigenous heritage, culture, and tribal roots. This is also a time to remember and reflect on the mistreatment of Native Americans during the creation and expansion of the United States. Sadly, the impact of colonization still persists today.

As an osteopathic medical school, we emphasize the American Indian heritage of the body-mind-spirit paradigm in osteopathic principles and practices as this is not widely known and celebrated. [Here](#) is an article from the International Journal of Osteopathic Medicine exploring these connections in greater detail. According to the American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine (AACOM), in 2020, [0.2 percent](#) of osteopathic matriculants were of Native American or American Indian background.

Rowan University has a [land acknowledgement](#) that serves to recognize Indigenous People as original stewards of this land and their continuing spiritual connection to the Earth. While statements alone do not heal past injustices, it serves as a demonstration of [respect and reflection](#).

RowanSOM can begin action by learning a more truthful history, reading Indigenous literature as well as advocating and showing solidarity with Indigenous People. Below are articles to foster greater awareness about Indigenous People's Day, American Indian history, and land acknowledgements.

- [Rethinking How We Celebrate American History - Indigenous People's Day](#)
- [Native American History Timeline](#)
- [American Experience - Native Americans \(PBS\)](#)
- [Native American History](#)
- [The Nanticoke Lenni-Lenape Tribe: An American Indian Tribe](#)
- [8 Incredible Inventions of the Indigenous People of the Americas](#)
- [How Boarding Schools Tried to "Kill the Indian" Through Assimilation](#)
- [A century of trauma at U.S. boarding schools for Native American children](#)
- [Trail of Tears](#)
- [Honoring Original Indigenous Land Inhabitants - Land Acknowledgements](#)

Stay safe and take good care.

Thomas A. Cavalieri, DO, MACOI, FACP
Dean