

1 **Resolution Number:** 304-2024

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3 **Title:** Land Acknowledgement Resolution

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5 **Reference Committee Assignment:** Licensure and Education

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7 **Sponsor(s):** Sina Shahrood, Advocacy Committee Member, MWU-AZ; Colby Dean, Member,
8 Tufts University

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10 **Financial Impact:** *None*

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12 **Board of Trustees Comments:** The Board recommends a yes vote.

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14 **Reference Committee Comments:** The Reference Committee recognizes that there was verbal
15 testimony in favor of the resolution. The Reference Committee recommends a yes vote and to be placed
16 on the Consent Calendar.

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18 **Background:** Throughout history, numerous dental schools have been established on land that
19 was originally inhabited by Indigenous peoples, acknowledging the ancestral territories on
20 which institutions are built (Native Land Digital). The acknowledgment of this historical reality is
21 crucial for promoting awareness, understanding, and reconciliation in alignment with the
22 principles outlined in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples
23 (UNDRIP, 2007). Recognizing the rights and contributions of Indigenous communities is
24 fundamental to fostering an inclusive and culturally sensitive environment within the dental
25 profession (AALD, 2021). This resolution aims to affirm ASDA's support for the practice of land
26 acknowledgments as a means of honoring Indigenous peoples and fostering a more inclusive
27 and respectful environment within dental education. This resolution seeks to demonstrate
28 ASDA's commitment to acknowledging historical realities, promoting inclusivity, and fostering
29 cultural sensitivity within dental education by supporting the practice of land
30 acknowledgments.

31

32

RESOLUTION

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34 **Resolved,** that ASDA supports the practice of ancestral land acknowledgments at dental schools
35 to recognize the Indigenous peoples, raise awareness about historical injustices, and promote
36 respectful relationships with the indigenous populations to further the reach of oral health
37 care.

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39 Further resolved, that ASDA encourages dental schools to incorporate educational initiatives
40 that highlight the history, culture, and contributions of Indigenous peoples within the
41 curriculum, fostering an environment of cultural competency and sensitivity.

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43 **Action:** The Chair moves resolution 304-2024 with a recommendation of a yes vote and to be
44 placed on the Consent Calendar.

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47 Sources:

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49 United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP). (2007). Retrieved
50 from [https://www.un.org/development/desa/indigenouspeoples/declaration-on-the-rights-of-](https://www.un.org/development/desa/indigenouspeoples/declaration-on-the-rights-of-indigenous-peoples.html)
51 [indigenous-peoples.html](https://www.un.org/development/desa/indigenouspeoples/declaration-on-the-rights-of-indigenous-peoples.html)

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53 Native Land Digital. (n.d.). Indigenous territories. Retrieved from <https://native-land.ca/>

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55 American Association of Colleges of Dentistry (AALD). (2021). Diversity and Inclusion Toolkit.
56 Retrieved from <https://www.aacd.com/education/>