**I humbly ask us to acknowledge the** [**Wampanoag**](https://www.plymouth400inc.org/our-story-exhibit-wampanoag-history/) **Peoples upon whose lands Bridgewater State University sits and to think about what that means and what you know about this history and place. The time has come to reckon with the history that we are a nation built by stolen bodies on stolen land. Each of you participating today is living on Indigenous land: Wampanoag, Nipmuc, Massachusett, Pequot, Narragansett, Moheghan, Abenaki, Passamaquoddy, Penobscot, and Migamaw to name a few. Wherever you are and wherever you go, it is your responsibility to find out whose lands you are on and to acknowledge that space and the people. All around these spaces you will find reminders: the names of rivers, streets, trails or appropriated for arenas, school names, restaurants, businesses, or institutions; as current occupiers this is an invitation for you to find out what these place names mean in** [**Indigenous languages**](https://www.wlrp.org/) **the histories and deeper meanings. Bridgewater State sits on land that is part of the Satucket [or** [**Bridgewater Purchase**](https://pilgrimhall.org/in_their_own_write.htm)**] of 1649 which includes Bridgewater, East Bridgewater and West Bridgewater and Brockton formerly North Bridgewater . Massaguatucket means the great pouring-forth place—where the rivers converge. The Satucket River is part of the** [**Wampanoag Canoe Passage**](http://tauntonriver.org/Taunton%20Wild%20and%20Scenic/histdocs/Wampanoag%20Canoe%20Passage.pdf)**. Our commonwealth name, Massachusett[s] means at the great hill. Bridgewater has also been called Titicut after the village at the place of a great river now called the Taunton River which flows out to the ocean. Land has meaning. Wampanoag and other Indigenous peoples of this area have been here for millennia living as caretakers of these lands long before the 1620 landing of the Pilgrims, long before Columbus. Despite the many attempts at erasure, Wampanoag and other Indigenous peoples are still here. A** [**land acknowledgement**](https://native-land.ca/territory-acknowledgement/) **should not be taken lightly, but as an act of disruption in order to undo Indigenous erasure. As human beings living on these Indigenous lands, we all have a responsibility to know and tell more accurate hi(stories) and to understand the meaning of land. In doing so, we honor the presence of Indigenous Ancestors who guide the way. We acknowledge their teachings and our responsibilities to care for the land, the waters, the plants, other-than-human beings, and all our relations as the many forms of creation.**