Beyond Acknowledgement, Into Action: Indigenous Peoples’ Day

Submissions are welcome! If you have a professional or personal accomplishment to celebrate, "Whitman Today" is produced by the Office of Communications and is emailed Monday through Friday to Whitman College staff, faculty and students. All times are listed in Pacific Daylight Time. Have an event you’d like to share with campus? Submit the information to the events next week!

Stay Safe During Break

Whether you are sticking around campus, hiking in the mountains or visiting family and friends, make sure you maintain your COVID safety practices over this long weekend. We’ve done a great job keeping COVID at very low levels on campus, but we don’t want to see any new cases. So stay safe and keep layering on the protection!

Classes will resume on Monday, Oct. 11, which is Indigenous Peoples’ Day. As an acknowledgment of the contributions of two recent books as tools for unlearning the myths that continue to inform American history, this year’s Indigenous Peoples’ Day recognizes that Native people are the first inhabitants of the Americas, including the lands that later became the United States of America. As such, Indigenous Peoples’ Day is about honoring the contributions of Native people to our nation and our world. These contributions are vast and complex, and we encourage you to spend some time thinking about your relationship to the land. How do you perceive your relationship to the original stewards of this land? How do you honor their legacy? Their sovereignty?

Whether you are on campus or working from home, please stay committed to the local community by supporting local businesses. Whether you are a student looking to take classes of interest to you or a local business owner, please support those local businesses and keep the Whitman community strong.

This week is a short one with Thursday and Friday included in October Break, so students have the opportunity to pause, reflect, perhaps catch up on some school work or even return home for a quick visit. Two days without classes when students have the opportunity to pause, reflect, perhaps catch up on some school work or even return home for a quick visit. Two days without classes when students have the opportunity to pause, reflect, perhaps catch up on some school work or even return home for a quick visit.

Last week, students in POL 345-A Indigenous Politics delivered presentations that focused on Indigenous histories and politics of Columbus Day, and ongoing efforts to replace the statue located in front of the Stickney County Courthouse in Walla Walla with a piece that focuses on a perspective other than colonialism. The discussions around the statue located in front of the Stickney County Courthouse in Walla Walla were incredibly powerful and challenging. As the statue will be removed, we encourage you to spend some time reflecting about your relationship to the land and to the original stewardship of this land. Do you have your first steps? Take ownership?

October Break Operational Changes

This week will see some changes in campus operations:

- ARC drop-in tutoring hours resume Monday
- Jewett Cafe closed Thursday and Friday; normal hours resume Monday
- Reid Campus Center: open 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Thursday and Friday; open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday; normal hours resume Sunday
- Sherwood and campus administrative offices will maintain their normal hours.
- ARC shop in Freedom Whittaker Building closed Thursday; normal hours resume Monday
- BFFC
- Cleveland Commons: closed Thursday and Friday; normal hours resume Monday
- Computer Technology Center: closed Thursday and Friday; normal hours resume Monday
- Creative Director and Operations Lead at The All We Can Save Project, Adina Scott is part of the Full Circle Everest Expedition, a group of climbers seeking to be the first all-Black group to climb the highest mountain on Earth, and provides support for expeditions promoting diversity in mountaineering. Professionally, Adina is a Marine Instrumentation and Computer Systems Specialist for the US Antarctic program. She is also the creative director & operations lead at The All We Can Save Project.

Stay in Touch!

If you have an event to publicize or other content to share with the Whitman community, please use whitmantoday@whitman.edu. Submissions should be 125 words or less. The deadline for submissions is noon for the following day’s newsletter, though submissions may be held for a later date according to space and editorial needs. By submitting to Whitman Today you also authorize use on Whitman’s social media unless otherwise specified. Previous issues of Whitman Today are available here. This week’s articles are available for reading at the end of this article. During this October Break, we encourage you to spend some time reflecting about your relationship to the land. How do you perceive your relationship to the original stewards of this land? How do you honor their legacy? Their sovereignty?

Read the full reflection.

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