



Land Acknowledgement

The Higher Education Department of the Morgridge College of Education at the University of Denver has a policy to begin all public events with a formal acknowledgement of the lands on which events take place. We would like to start the 2018 Public Policy Forum by first acknowledging that the University of Denver sits on Cheyenne and Arapaho land, who are the original Stewards of this land. We also wish to acknowledge all other Indigenous Tribes and Nations who call Colorado home. It is because of their sacrifices and hardships that we are able to be here to learn and share knowledge to advance educational equity.

As we begin this Forum dedicated to advancing conversations about how public policy might be leveraged to promote equity, it is important to first recognize that Indigenous people have been displaced from their homelands. It is also important to recognize that U.S. public policy has been used to displace Indigenous communities, erode Tribal Nation sovereignty, and forcibly assimilate Native individuals into U.S. society. We share this acknowledgement to encourage attendees to use the Forum to discuss and strategize how we might leverage public policy to address these historic and contemporary atrocities perpetuated against Native people and other marginalized communities.

We also want to acknowledge that the University of Denver's history is connected with the forcible displacement and massacre of Native peoples. "One hundred and fifty years ago, on Nov. 29, 1864, at an area known as Sand Creek, near the present-day town of Eads, Colorado, a group of U.S. militia attacked and killed an estimated 160 women, children and elderly members of the Cheyenne and Arapaho tribes. The massacre occurred when John Evans, founder of the University of Denver and of Northwestern University in Illinois, was serving both as governor of the Colorado Territory and as territorial superintendent of Indian affairs ... A DU report prepared in 2014 concludes that John Evans was culpable for the Sand Creek Massacre."

[Excerpt taken from *John Evans Report* website.]

While this information may be new, and even unsettling, we share this knowledge to open dialogue and to encourage all of us to think critically about what it means to truly elevate equity while advancing public policy.

If you would like to read the *John Evans Report*, please visit this website:
<https://portfolio.du.edu/evcomm>.