Emphasizing Indigenous Concerns in the Present Moment

This vision of American history, and the University, erases a legacy of violence and dispossession directed at Indigenous peoples.

President Pollack’s messages this year stress the need to come to terms with Cornell’s historical and current participation in systems of oppression.

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John Gast, “American Progress” (1872), oil on canvas in the collections of the Autry Museum of the American West
Indigenous Studies scholars assert this is an aspect of *Settler Colonialism*. 
• March 30, 2020 *High Country News* article by Tristan Ahtone and Robert Lee identifies roots of Land-Grant colleges in Indigenous dispossession.

• Cornell University is specifically mentioned as the largest recipient of Morrill Act lands, and also as the school that made (by far) the most money from these lands.
Cornell Morrill Act Details (from HCN)

Table and Map prepared by Cornell Alum Dr. David Strip based on data provided by HCN.
Not Just the Morrill Act: Cornell’s New York State Lands

Cornell-Owned Lands in New York State

Locations of Cornell Real Estate

Source: CUGIR Data Repository, https://gis.fcs.cornell.edu/arcgis/rest/services/Production/Real_Estate/MapServer, CRS ESFG 4326 · WGS 84. Prepared by Dusti Bridges 10-11-2020

Note: does not include NYC campuses or Cooperative Extension offices
Remedies?

• AIISP is committed to determining remedies in consultation with affected communities
• This is likely to be a long process
• Other land grant universities also are thinking about and acting on this issue
• Some possibilities (adapted from Prof. Beth Rose Middleton’s September presentation at Berkeley):
  o Invest in Indigenous Students (Scholarships, Financial Aid, Tuition Waivers)
  o Invest in Indigenous Studies Education and Research (Faculty, Major, Department)
  o Land Transfer
  o Financial Transfer
  o Co-management Agreements or Easements
  o Monuments
  o Building Community Engagements and Collaborations