



MAHOGANY

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CELEBRATES:

# NATIONAL NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

## NOVEMBER IS NATIONAL NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH, OR AMERICAN INDIAN & ALASKA NATIVE HERITAGE MONTH.

A decade after the Cherokee/Osage NASA physicist, Jerry C. Elliott-High Eagle authored congressional legislation for observing the first Native American Awareness Week (signed into law by President Gerald Ford in 1976), President Ronald Reagan proclaimed November 23-30, 1986 as American Indian Week. President George H.W. Bush expanded the week-long observation to a month by declaration in 1990.

Following the 2009 Native American Heritage Day Resolution – signed into law by President Barack Obama – National Native American Heritage Day has been acknowledged on the fourth Friday in November. As Thanksgiving is seen as time of mourning for many Indigenous Americans, this day-after celebration is designed to honor their heritage, accomplishments and contributions.

American Indians and Alaska Natives make up just 2 percent of the U.S. population\*; they comprise less than .005 percent of the American tech workforce. These discouraging stats present immense challenges to achieving any significant level of Indigenous representation in our industry. But, we have to start somewhere. Here are our suggestions for incremental ways to work toward true diversity, equity and inclusion during this celebratory month:

- Learn more about Native American cultures
- Explore the complicated intersectional identities (Black/American Indian) of the Shinnecock tribe of Eastern Long Island, NY
- Attend a live or virtual event
- Promote nonprofit organizations supporting Native Americans in technology
- See a performance of “The Thanksgiving Play,” by playwright and 2020 MacArthur Fellow (“Genius” Grant recipient), Larissa FastHorse
- Visit a reservation, museum, exhibit or cultural center
- Support Native American-owned businesses and business owners, including Jamie Okuma (J. Okuma) and Angel Aubichon/Alex Manitopyes (Indi City)

