**CECE 2021**

**Administered to both UG and GRAD students.**

**Undergraduate:**

614 respondents: 595 participants, 19 non-participants

**UG: Q9. Which cultural communities came to mind when you answered the questions above?**

Any type of minority group on campus, I'm a Hispanic womxn and after learning of DU's decision to continue the use of the pioneer moniker despite groups who are most affected asking is be discontinued

I identify as Native American and I seek my people through NSA but the population of Native Americans on campus is small which is understandable but difficult regarding the school mascot. Being a PIONEER, which makes me uncomfortable and I even feel disrespected with such mascot and responses to changing the name by the Chancellor.

**UG: Is there anything else not captured by this survey that you think we should know?**

- Should include First gen and scholars in the box where athletes/English learners are
- Address the PIONEER monicker topic to create for a more inclusive environment.

CHANGE THE PIONEER MONIKER. BE ON THE RIGHT SIDE OF HISTORY.

DU as an institution prides itself in "Inclusive excellence" and "cultural diversity" but does not offer any types of financial or social supports to its multicultural organizations outside of the Joint Council such as the Multicultural Greek Council.
It also does not value its cultural diversity if they refuse to divest from the Pioneer Moniker.
Students carry all the weight of organizing, participating, and educating people on their cultures. Not the Institution.

DU needs to get rid of the pioneers because it is insensitive to our indigenous community. I will never feel accepted until they do, even though I am a Latina. Selective inclusion is NOT inclusion. Additionally, even though there are many communities that I can go to for support, there needs to be more cultural awareness around campus. Just like we have to do our sexual assault Everify modules, cultural awareness should be a requirement for all students. We can’t just ignore the inequalities and structural racism, students have to learn about them and this will only start when DU not only acknowledges them, but creates plans to do something about it to remove them from their institution.

GET RID OF THE PIONEER NAME. IT'S RACIST AND IGNORANT TOWARDS NATIVE AMERICANS. Here are some ideas for a new mascot:
-University of Denver Dinosaurs
-University of Denver Dogs
-University of Denver T-Rexs
-University of Denver Capybaras
-Unviversity of Denver Reindeer
-University of Denver Rocky Mountain Goats
-University of Denver Dingos

I think DU needs to check in with itself on where it stands. It often serves as a bastion for white supremacy. One thing that needs to be emphasized is that white supremacy comes in different forms and it’s not often violent(like Klansmembers burning crosses). When DU’s chancellor and the institution effectively says that the discussion surrounding the “pioneer,” is over, then it signals that it doesn’t really care how BIPOC(Black, Indigenous, People of Color) students feel.

Why is DU absolutely married to the pioneer? In so many of my classes, DU’s role in settler-colonialism is talked about. We often talk about how DU doesn’t really do anything other than huff and puff and throw buzz words like “inclusive excellence”. So when folks says DU causes harm to BIPOC students, it does so by standing firmly in white supremacy.

If I’ve learned anything from my time at DU is that white folks only care about white folks when it suits white folks. BIPOC students are ignored continuously and I’m extremely disappointed to say that I’m apart of the DU community.

We should change our mascot from Pioneers to something else.

When I think about the word pioneer, I think of paving a way to future possibilities and pushing boundaries that haven’t been crossed yet. I think of fighting whatever stands in my way of getting there and focusing solely on the goal of achieving excellence. But at what cost? Should I pave a way forward for the purpose of my own success by tearing apart and destroying everything in my path? This is what pioneer has come to mean to me. I find that paving a way forward by bulldozing over my opponents has been the way of our founders. As the chancellor has said, there is irrefutable evidence for our founder’s role in the “pioneering” of our university at the cost of hundreds of lives. The school took up this title as a badge of honor to be worn with pride, but what we’re showing our enemies is that we don’t mind playing dirty to get what we want. Is this the message that you want to be giving your students? I agree that we should pursue our dreams and find new paths forward, but I do not agree that we should necessarily harm others on our path to get there. I feel ashamed to be considered a pioneer.
I am reading this email that was sent out about remembering the Sand Creek Massacre, and it doesn’t feel sincere. It seems like all DU wants to do is “remember” it and not actually repair much of the damage done by it. The simplest thing DU could do is to say, “We don’t want to follow in the footsteps of our founders. We denounce the notion of being a pioneer.” But instead, DU chooses to look at all the “good” parts of the word and to continue showing the multiple meanings.
Many words do indeed have multiple meanings. Our mascot could be a tool to describe the things DU give us to use in our post college years where we are given the tools to excel in life. However, I could guarantee that people wouldn’t like being called the Denver Tools because of the negative connotation with what it means to be a tool. Pioneer seems as straight forward as this for so many people. Why do we continue to look at the “good” meanings of the word when there are so many painful repercussions that come with it. Pioneer continues to especially remind Native students every day that their college doesn’t mind embracing the title of those who killed their ancestors in cold blood. Would you want to go to a school that was titled something that hurt you or your family?
I know you have already made your decision on keeping Pioneer alive at our institution, but I urge you to take another look at the actual impact of your decision to keep this moniker.

**Please describe any activities/programs that make you feel included or helped you succeed at this institution?**

Protests to change the name of Pioneer

**Graduate:**

995 respondents: 975 participants, 20 non-participants

Current program: 736 Master's (including Certificate), 238 Doctoral, one Unknown.

GRAD: **Q9. Which cultural communities came to mind when you answered the questions above?**

I feel like this survey is a follow up to the decision to keep the Pioneer as the DU mascot. I was thinking about the influence it has on Native American community members. I really like the Pioneer mascot because I like to think of myself as a pioneer in that I moved from Ohio to Cali, to Colorado in search of new horizons. In those journey I have come to an understanding of how things really work and am more sensitive to the perspectives of the broader American experience. I would be entirely on board with alterations to the mascot with the understanding that it could irrevocably alter the course of the institution that I feel is on a good path. In my mind I was imagining the mascot changing to the Explorer... but that may have an even worse connotation. So I understand that the decision was a challenge. Changes can't erase the past, but they can bring evolution, learning, change, wisdom making us stronger and more resilient. I was glad to see all the programs and opportunities that have been provided and hope to see a continued effort.

GRAD: **Is there anything else not captured by this survey that you think we should know?**

feeling very disappointed and unsupported in regards to institutional disregard for genuine diversity engagement and the Pioneer moniker; the lack of diversity in staff AND the student body feel like a disservice to both minority students and those of us who crave a more diverse and dynamic enivronment

How can DU act like they want cultural diversity with the Pioneer moniker. You should be asking CURRENT students, faculty, and staff what they want, not just those that give you money. Keeping the Pioneer moniker makes this survey seem like a façade and like you are not actually listening to us.

I told a charming story on my interview day a few years ago, about how I loved Laura Ingalls Wilder and how excited I was to be a Pioneer. Learning more about the legacy of abuse of Pioneers, particularly DU's founders, and my opportunities to congregate with DU Native Student Alliance members, and my increased understanding have helped me change my mind. While I am not an indigenous Native student, I stand STRONGLY IN SOLIDARITY with a call for MY University to use our famous "pioneering spirit" to pioneer a NEW MONIKER, MASCOT, AND BRANDING SCHEME for DU. The Trustee's dismissiveness toward the right decision, DU students, and particularly DU Native students is disappointing, infuriating, and highlights a massive disconnect between the values and goals of students, faculty, and staff at DU and some trustees who love the term Pioneer so much they risk internal revolution and external decries against the Trustees' decision as last stated. How will DU students, faculty, staff, chancellors, and trustees be able to form and maintain culturally supportive communities when we can't even stop painful moniker-calling that directly harms our community? I am so grateful for the amazing students, faculty, and staff at Morgridge and for how supportive they are for their students and students from ALL communities. #NoMorePios is not a grassroots initiative--it's a trunk-and-branches demand for respect for change. In 2001, my conservative Christian college let students vote for a new mascot to replace "Crusaders" BECAUSE OF HOW HORRIBLY CRUSADERS TREATED PEOPLE. In Denver, the fire of this year has changed both the names of the Rebel mascot in a high school and the name of the Stapleton neighborhood. WE DEMAND CHANGE. DU Trustees, DU better! #CHANGETHENAME #NOMOREPIOS

Just change the Pioneer Branding. If it was really about the spirit of the word we could be "Innovators, Groundbreakers, Explorers, etc." It is not up to the people who have directly benefitted from the racist, colonizing, and genocidal actions of Pioneers to reclaim it. You are showing us all what, and more importantly who, you value as an institution.

Most of the graduate students in my program are extremely frustrated by the university's complete disregard for its Indigenous students and students who belong to other marginalized communities. We perceive the reaffirmation of the "pioneer" moniker as an extremely harmful act of disrespect, and it has led me to believe that the administration embodies the practices of racism and white supremacy to the extent which I wish I had chosen to attend a different institution. They have chosen to uphold traditions rooted in violence which, despite what they say, cannot be rebranded differently enough not to signify anything but complete disregard for non-white people. Essentially, I believe the administration only values white lives and a large part of me wishes I wasn't connected with DU.