



University of Lynchburg

Institution Name: University of Lynchburg

Location: Lynchburg, Virginia – 1501 Lakeside Drive, Lynchburg, VA 24501

Website: www.lynchburg.edu

1. Key administrative personnel and faculty contact information
 - a. President – Dr. Alison Morrison-Shetlar
 - b. VP for Inclusive Excellence – Dr. Robert Canida

2. About your institution

The University of Lynchburg, formerly Lynchburg College, is a private university founded in 1903 and located in Lynchburg, Virginia. It had approximately 2,000 undergraduate students and 1,000 graduate students. Our top five majors in order are: Nursing, Exercise Physiology, Criminology, Business Administration, and Psychology. We offer direct admit pathways into our graduate programs, some of which include Doctor of Physical Therapy, Physician Assistant, Business Administration, and Athletic Training.

At Lynchburg, we cultivate a culture of kindness and philanthropy — on campus, in the local community, and in the broader world. We give of our resources, our talents, and our time, and we're passionate about making the University and the world a better place than it was when we found it.

We're a tight-knit community that's accepting and inviting. We're socially responsible and active, and don't hesitate to stand up and speak out for what's just and right. Pride and belonging are important at Lynchburg. Everyone has a niche, a club, a team, or a group of friends, but when it comes down to it, we're all Hornets.

We have a long history of athletic excellence — more than 100 years, nearly 200 conference titles, and more than 240 All-Americans. In 2014, our women's soccer team won the NCAA Division III championship — the first team national championship in the history of the institution.

Our intercollegiate athletic program includes 25 teams (12 men's and 13 women's) in NCAA Division III and the Old Dominion Athletic Conference (ODAC). Our equestrian team competes in the Intercollegiate Horse Shows Association and the National Collegiate Equestrian Association (winning a title in 2022), in addition to the ODAC. In 2023 our baseball team won the NCAA in Division III.

3. If your institution has a land acknowledgment, mention it here or detail efforts to create a land acknowledgment.

Dr. Alison Morrison-Shetlar, president of the University of Lynchburg, and Mr. Kenneth Branham, tribal chief of the Monacan Indian Nation, signed the following land acknowledgment statement on Feb. 21, 2022:

Long before the University of Lynchburg was established in 1903 as an educational institution, the Monacan Indian Nation inhabited this land and the greater Piedmont region of Virginia for more than 10,000 years. We honor the Indigenous people of this region who have woven their lives into the nearby mountains that rise and rivers that flow across the land. We honor the indigenous people of this region who have hunted, harvested, crafted, traded, worshiped, and dreamed, educating their descendants through storytelling and oral traditions.

We acknowledge that through oppression, disease, systematic attack, race integrity laws, and the inequities that plagued Virginia's educational system, the Monacan Indian Nation was significantly reduced in numbers. As the result of a targeted paper genocide, their culture and identities became virtually extinct.

Today, the Monacan Indian Nation is more than 2,000 members strong. The tribe is dedicated to reclaiming its heritage, celebrating its traditions, and being good stewards to their ancestral land, including the sacred Tobacco Row and Bear Mountains located in nearby Amherst County. In 1989 the Monacan Indian Nation was officially recognized by the Commonwealth of Virginia, and in 2018, after an 18-year battle, the tribe rightfully received Federal Recognition from the government of the United States. We recognize that the Monacan Indian Nation is an integral part of the Lynchburg community, and we recognize the importance of providing equitable teaching and learning opportunities to all indigenous communities.

Adhering to the University of Lynchburg's mission statement, this Land Acknowledgement challenges us all, students, staff, and faculty to develop balanced perspectives and engage with a globally diverse society to better understand our collective history and commitment to broader communities.

4. If your institution has a tribal consultation policy, mention it here or detail efforts to create a consultation policy.
 - a. Currently we do not have a tribal consultation policy.
5. Describe your institution's goals regarding inclusion of and relations with Virginia's Indigenous Nations. Please specifically address each of the 6 VINHE focus areas in your answer.
 - a. VINHE's Six Focus Areas
 - i. Land and Watershed Management and Conservation
 1. College Lake is a 25-acre reservoir located on the campus of University of Lynchburg within the Blackwater Creek watershed. It is the largest urban lake in Lynchburg. It is located in a critical position, capturing surface waters from multiple sources of the Blackwater Creek watershed just before emptying into the James River. College Lake's ecosystem is degrading rapidly as it fills with sediment, nutrients, and raw sewage, resulting in the rapid development of watershed and stormwater management problems.
 - ii. Cultural Resources: History, Archives, Justice
 1. An important historic site and museum, Sandusky sits about 2 miles from the University of Lynchburg. It is a registered Virginia Historic

Landmark and listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The house is one of the finest examples of Federal style architecture in Virginia's Piedmont region and is on the Civil War Trails tour. Sandusky's library, document archives, and collections provide a variety of options for student research, scholarship, and publication.

- iii. Preparation for, Access to, and Success in Higher Education
 1. During the admissions process we look at applications holistically. We try to make a private education affordable by offering numerous scholarships. All admitted students are offered a Merit Scholarship which ranges from \$16,000 - \$22,000. We offer Native American Students a \$5,000 scholarship and Students from the Monacan Indian Nation a full tuition scholarship.
- iv. Legal Issues, Infrastructure, and Business Development
 1. This is not currently applicable.
- v. Embracing Tribal History in K-12 Education Standards
 1. The University of Lynchburg released a land acknowledgement in Feb. 2022, that is integral to understanding the history of the land the institution rests on. During the month of November, the University provides information about pilgrim's land exploitation which misplaced Indigenous people from their homes and spread a plethora of diseases. The university dining hall also serves Native American cuisine throughout various days in November.
- vi. Tribal Community Health
 1. The College of Medical Sciences has met with the Monacan Indian Nation regarding community health matters.
6. Provide any resources of interest including relevant academic programs, student groups, initiatives, etc.
 - a. We have Native American Student Association, a student led organization open to everyone, which aims to educate students on Native American history and culture.
 - b. This Fall we are planning to host a Native Food Ways in partnership with the Monacan Indian Nation
7. Provide information on any existing partnerships you have with tribal nations.
 - a. Monacan Indian Nation – Full tuition scholarship and land acknowledgement statement.
 - b. We are in conversations with the Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina to provide pathways for their youth to attend the University of Lynchburg.