



WHERE *REAL* HAPPENS

**Message from Board Chair J. Stephen Sundby on behalf of McMurry University Board of Trustees**

Dear McMurry University Community:

On June 26, 2020, the Board of Trustees unanimously approved a resolution eliminating Tipi Village as a homecoming activity. That action was partially in recognition that the COVID pandemic makes the creation of Tipi Village impossible for 2020. But more importantly, the Trustees agreed that Tipi Village has suffered in quality and authenticity over the years and failed to honor the traditions and culture of our Indigenous people throughout the United States. Finally, for 10 years now, McMurry's mascot has been the War Hawk. It is time our Homecoming traditions reflect such.

While we appreciate the historical significance of this student activity in McMurry's history, McMurry University must move forward, demonstrating cultural understanding and inclusion that embody the institutional values consistent with our Christian teachings.

McMurry University began reflecting on its institutional history with the 2014 strategic plan's adoption, McMurry Momentum, and continues to as we look forward to our 2023 Centennial. McMurry's mission and core values have always guided in-depth discussions and introspection and continue to inspire our campus community today, including students, faculty, staff, and alumni.

**McMurry University Core Values:**  
Christian faith as the foundation of life;  
Personal relationships as the catalyst for life;  
Learning as the journey life;  
Excellence as the goal of life;  
and Service at the measure of life.

The current Covid-19 crisis has prompted us to think about things differently – to do things differently – to imagine our traditions differently.

Sincerely,

J. Stephen Sundby  
Chair of the Board of Trustees  
McMurry University

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